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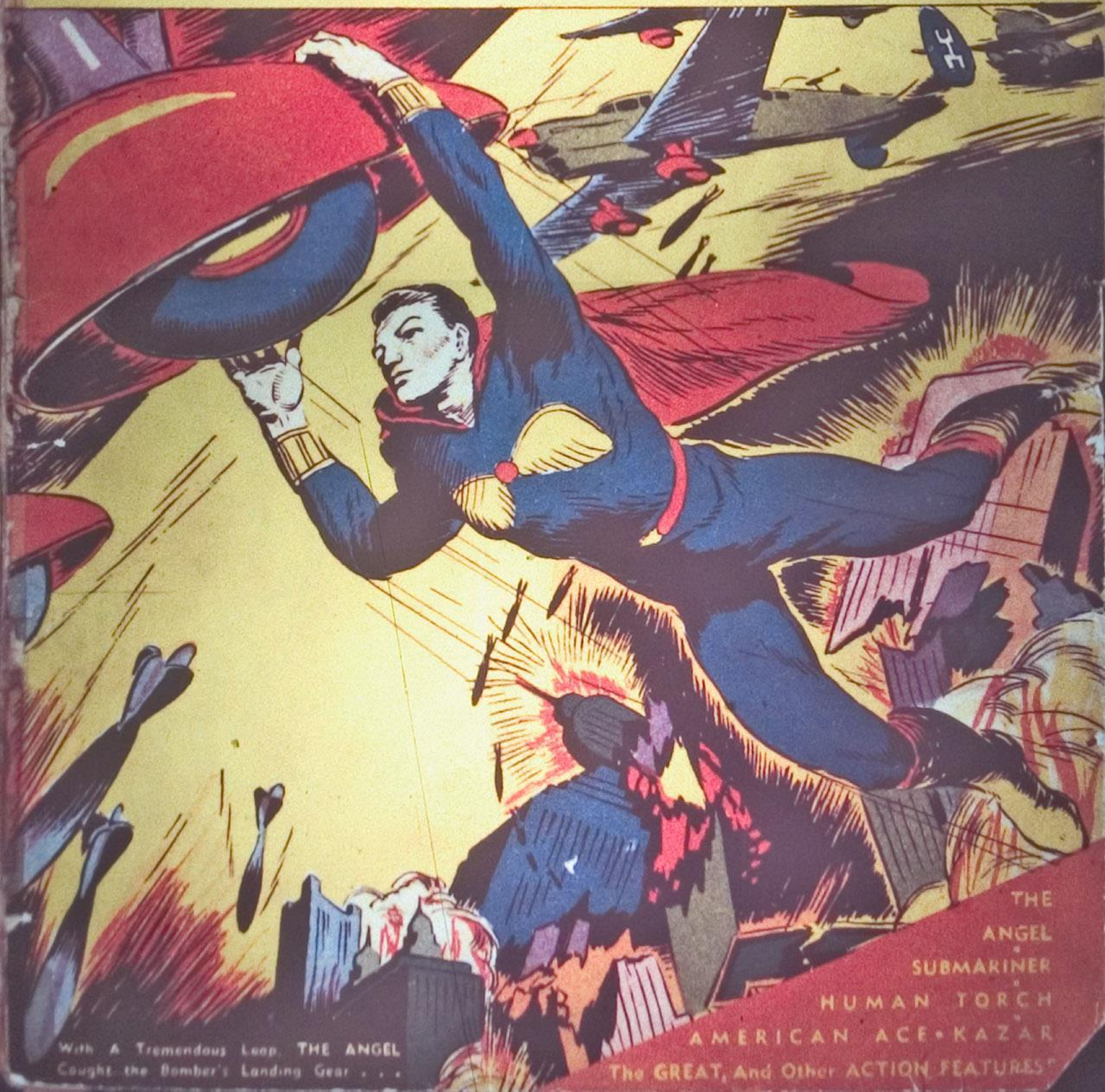

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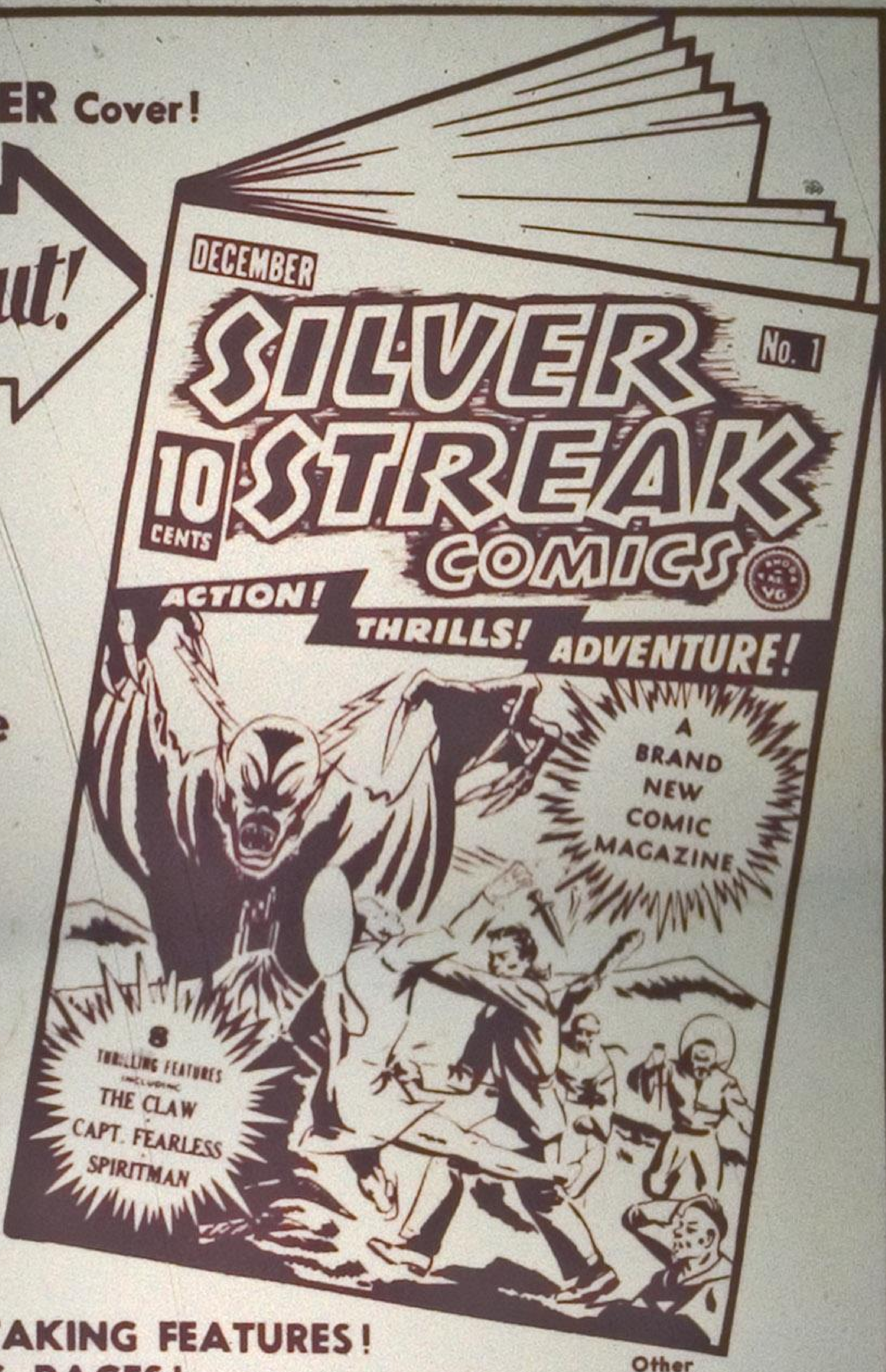
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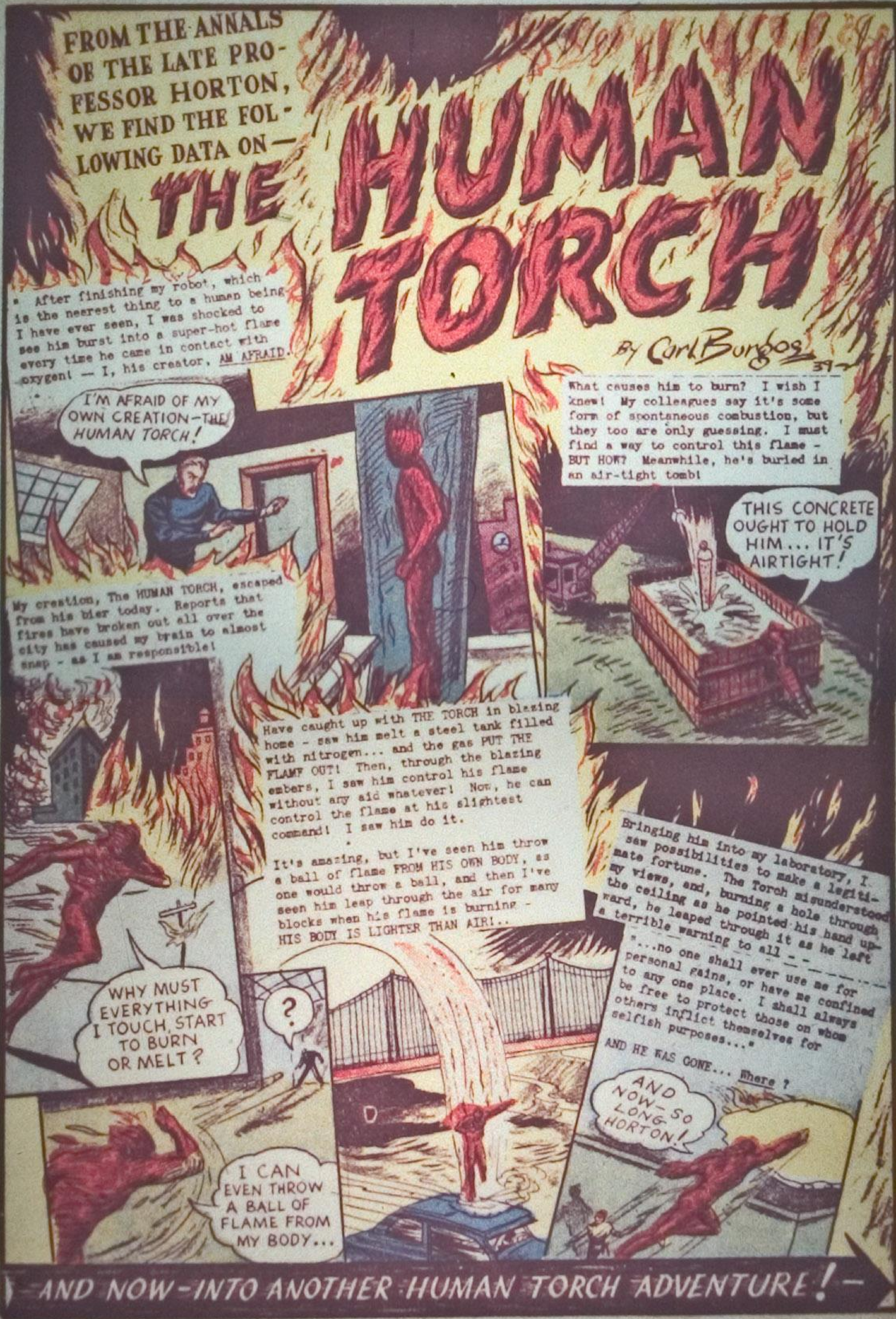
MARVEL MYSTERY COMICS published monthly by Timely Publications, 330 West 42nd St., New York, N. Y. Publication office, 8 Lord Street, Buffalo, New York. Entered as second class matter at the Post Office at Buffalo, New York under act of March 3rd, 1879. Entire contents copyright 1939 by Timely Publications. Vol. 1 No. 2. December 1939. Yearly subscription $1.00. Single copies 10 cents.



FROM THE ANNALS OF THE LATE PROFESSOR HORTON, WE FIND THE FOLLOWING DATA ON—

THE HUMAN TORCH

By Carl Burgos

• After finishing my robot, which is the nearest thing to a human being I have ever seen, I was shocked to see him burst into a super-hot flame every time he came in contact with oxygen! — I, his creator, AM AFRAID.

What causes him to burn? I wish I knew! My colleagues say it's some form of spontaneous combustion, but they too are only guessing. I must find a way to control this flame - BUT HOW? Meanwhile, he's buried in an air-tight tomb!

My creation, The HUMAN TORCH, escaped from his bier today. Reports that fires have broken out all over the city has caused my brain to almost snap - as I am responsible!

Have caught up with THE TORCH in blazing home - saw him melt a steel tank filled with nitrogen... and the gas PUT THE FLAME OUT! Then, through the blazing embers, I saw him control his flame without any aid whatever! Now, he can control the flame at his slightest command! I saw him do it.

It's amazing, but I've seen him throw a ball of flame FROM HIS OWN BODY, as one would throw a ball, and then I've seen him leap through the air for many blocks when his flame is burning - HIS BODY IS LIGHTER THAN AIR!..

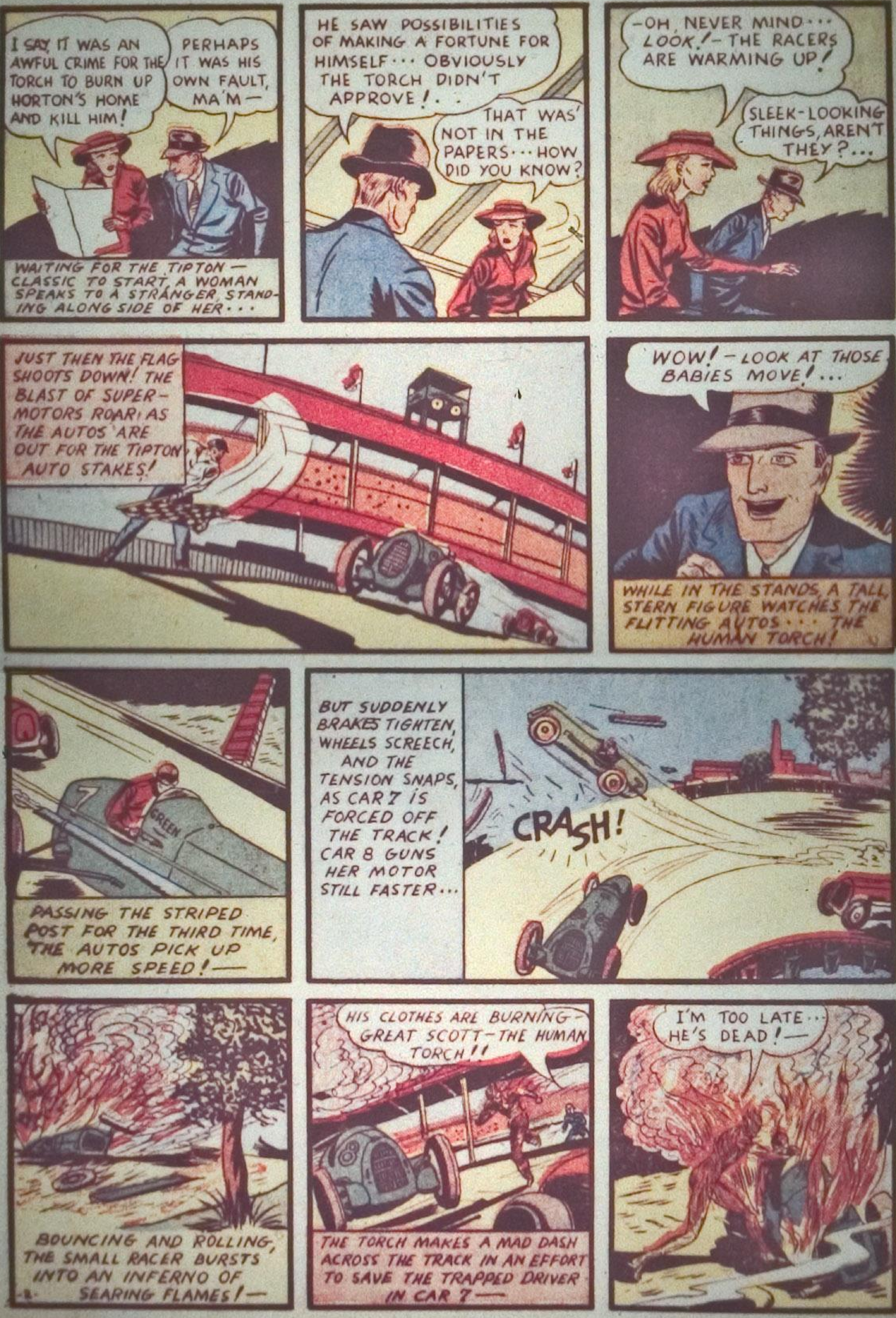
Bringing him into my laboratory, I saw possibilities to make a legitimate fortune. The Torch misunderstood my views, and, burning a hole through the ceiling as he pointed his hand upward, he leaped through it as he left a terrible warning to all — —

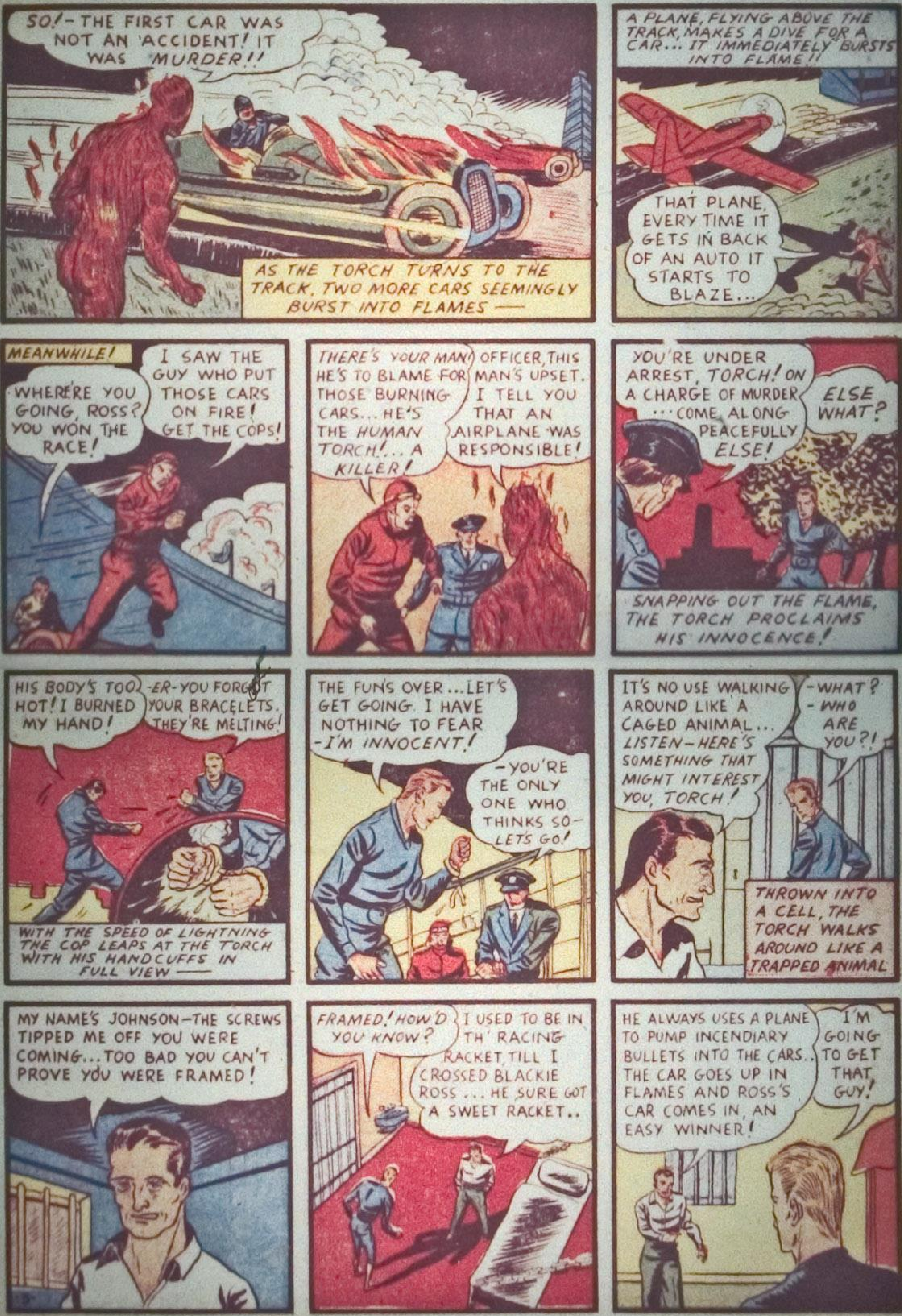
"...no one shall ever use me for personal gains, or have me confined to any one place. I shall always be free to protect those on whom others inflict themselves for selfish purposes..."

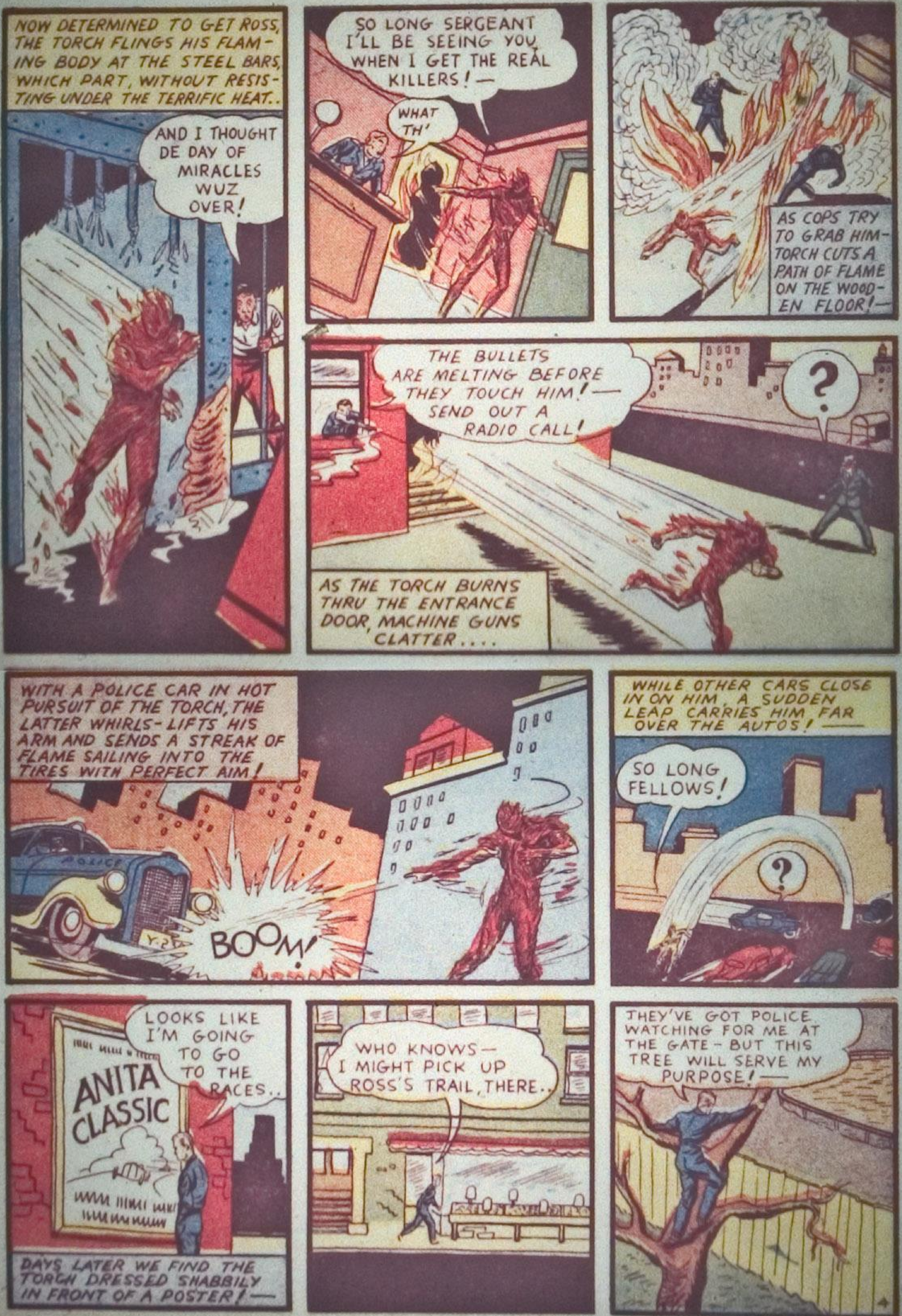
AND HE WAS GONE... Where ?

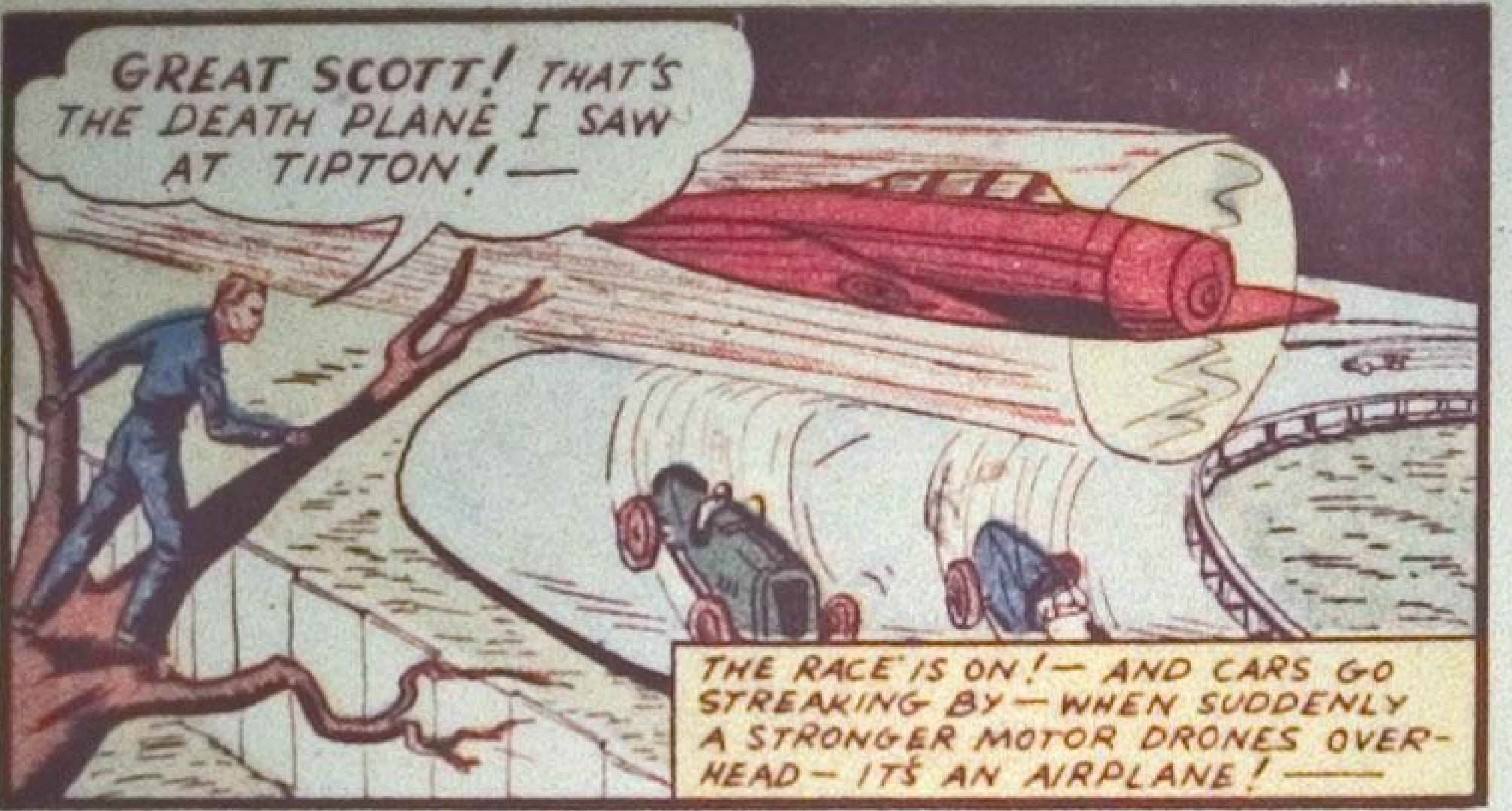
39
I'M AFRAID OF MY OWN CREATION—THE HUMAN TORCH!
THIS CONCRETE OUGHT TO HOLD HIM... IT'S AIRTIGHT!
WHY MUST EVERYTHING I TOUCH, START TO BURN OR MELT?
?
I CAN EVEN THROW A BALL OF FLAME FROM MY BODY...
AND NOW—SO LONG HORTON!

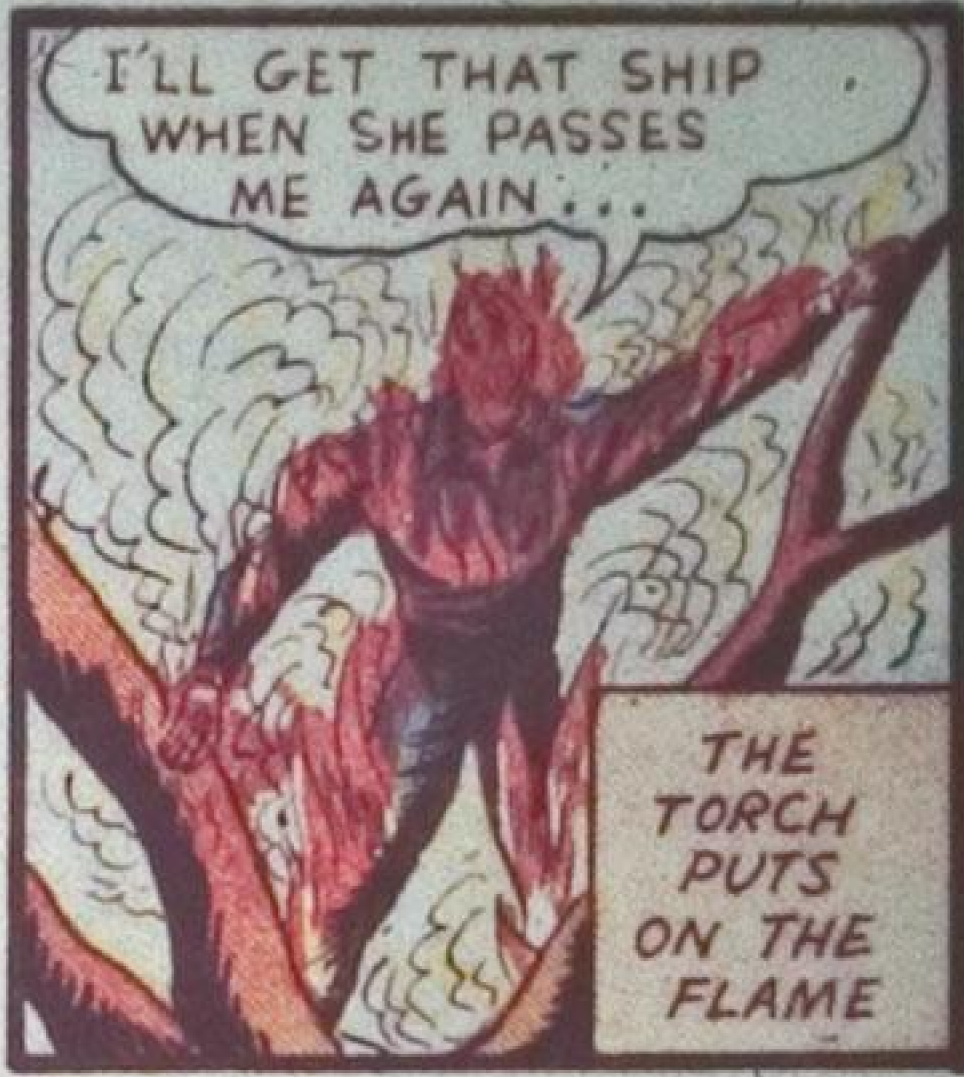
AND NOW—INTO ANOTHER HUMAN TORCH ADVENTURE!—

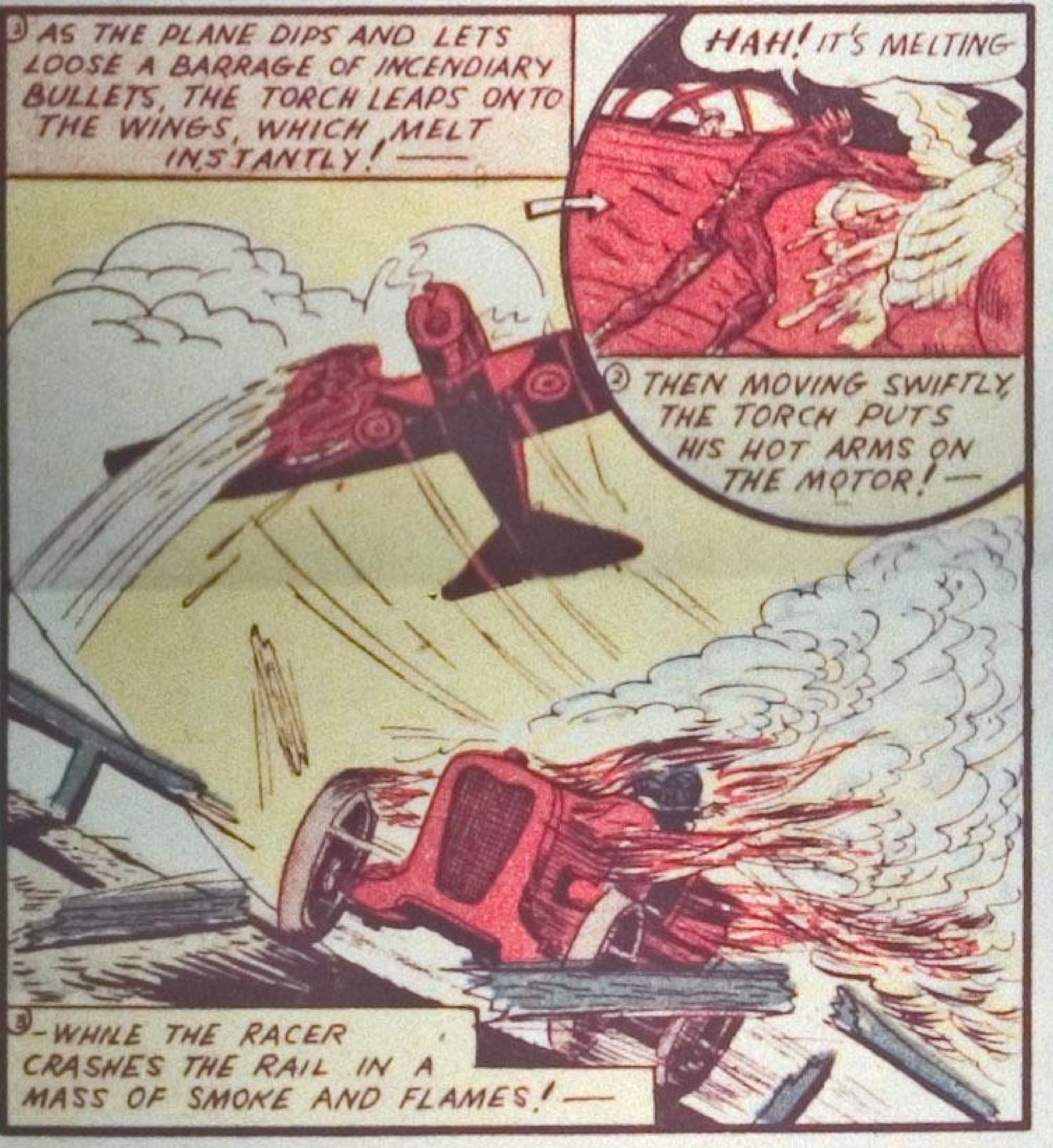

I SAY, IT WAS AN AWFUL CRIME FOR THE TORCH TO BURN UP HORTON'S HOME AND KILL HIM!
PERHAPS IT WAS HIS OWN FAULT, MA'M—
WAITING FOR THE TIPTON—CLASSIC TO START, A WOMAN SPEAKS TO A STRANGER, STANDING ALONG SIDE OF HER...
HE SAW POSSIBILITIES OF MAKING A FORTUNE FOR HIMSELF... OBVIOUSLY THE TORCH DIDN'T APPROVE!..
THAT WAS' NOT IN THE PAPERS... HOW DID YOU KNOW?
—OH, NEVER MIND... LOOK!—THE RACERS ARE WARMING UP!
SLEEK-LOOKING THINGS, AREN'T THEY?...
JUST THEN THE FLAG SHOOTS DOWN! THE BLAST OF SUPER-MOTORS ROAR, AS THE AUTOS ARE OUT FOR THE TIPTON AUTO STAKES!
WOW!—LOOK AT THOSE BABIES MOVE!...
WHILE IN THE STANDS, A TALL, STERN FIGURE WATCHES THE FLITTING AUTOS... THE HUMAN TORCH!
7
GREEN
PASSING THE STRIPED POST FOR THE THIRD TIME, THE AUTOS PICK UP MORE SPEED!—
BUT SUDDENLY BRAKES TIGHTEN, WHEELS SCREECH, AND THE TENSION SNAPS, AS CAR 7 IS FORCED OFF THE TRACK! CAR 8 GUNS HER MOTOR STILL FASTER...
CRASH!
BOUNCING AND ROLLING, THE SMALL RACER BURSTS INTO AN INFERNO OF SEARING FLAMES!—
HIS CLOTHES ARE BURNING—GREAT SCOTT—THE HUMAN TORCH!!
8
THE TORCH MAKES A MAD DASH ACROSS THE TRACK IN AN EFFORT TO SAVE THE TRAPPED DRIVER IN CAR 7—
I'M TOO LATE... HE'S DEAD!—

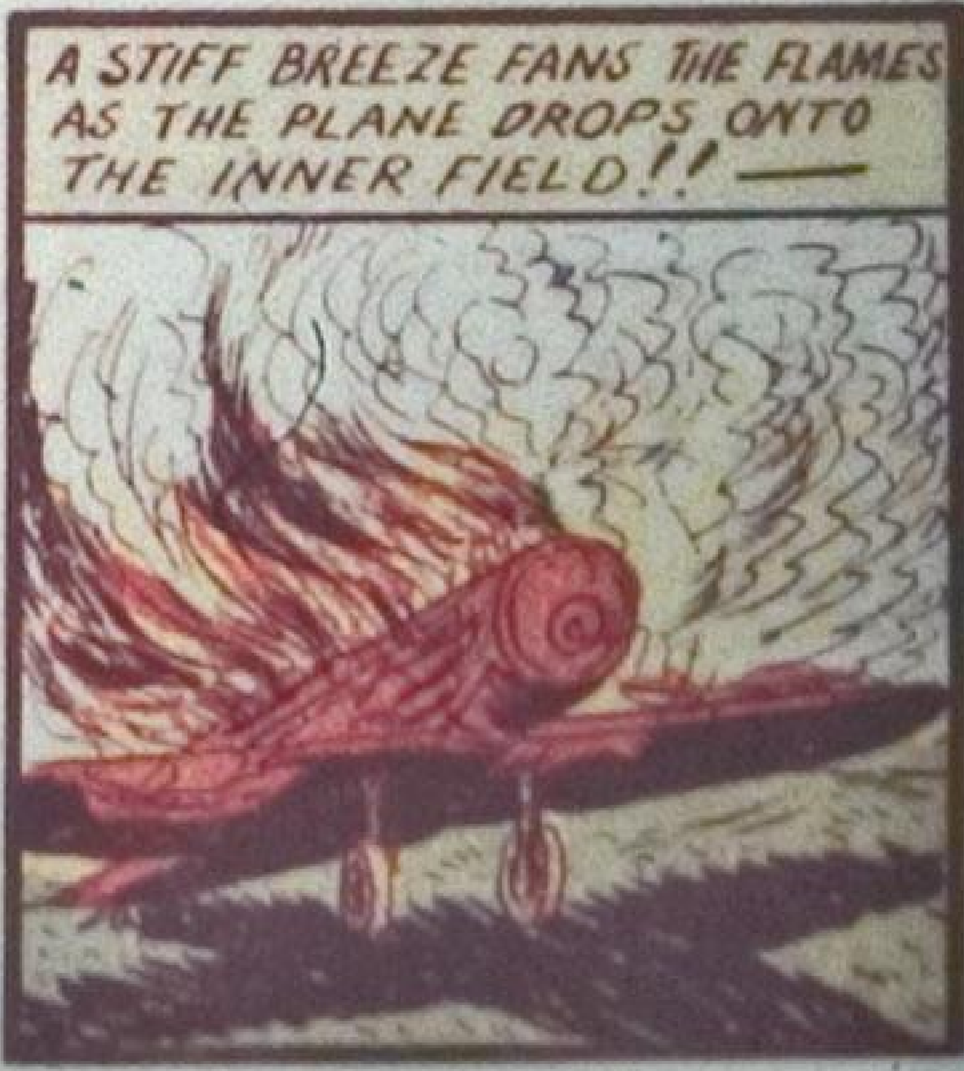

SO! - THE FIRST CAR WAS NOT AN 'ACCIDENT'! IT WAS MURDER!!
AS THE TORCH TURNS TO THE TRACK, TWO MORE CARS SEEMINGLY BURST INTO FLAMES —
A PLANE, FLYING ABOVE THE TRACK, MAKES A DIVE FOR A CAR... IT IMMEDIATELY BURSTS INTO FLAME!!
THAT PLANE, EVERY TIME IT GETS IN BACK OF AN AUTO IT STARTS TO BLAZE...
MEANWHILE!
WHERE'RE YOU GOING, ROSS? YOU WON THE RACE!
I SAW THE GUY WHO PUT THOSE CARS ON FIRE! GET THE COPS!
THERE'S YOUR MAN! HE'S TO BLAME FOR THOSE BURNING CARS... HE'S THE HUMAN TORCH!... A KILLER!
OFFICER, THIS MAN'S UPSET. I TELL YOU THAT AN AIRPLANE WAS RESPONSIBLE!
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST, TORCH! ON A CHARGE OF MURDER ... COME ALONG PEACEFULLY ELSE!
ELSE WHAT?
SNAPPING OUT THE FLAME, THE TORCH PROCLAIMS HIS INNOCENCE!
HIS BODY'S TOO HOT! I BURNED MY HAND!
-ER-YOU FORGOT YOUR BRACELETS. THEY'RE MELTING!
WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHTNING THE COP LEAPS AT THE TORCH WITH HIS HANDCUFFS IN FULL VIEW —
THE FUN'S OVER... LET'S GET GOING. I HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR -I'M INNOCENT!
-YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO THINKS SO- LET'S GO!
IT'S NO USE WALKING AROUND LIKE A CAGED ANIMAL... LISTEN- HERE'S SOMETHING THAT MIGHT INTEREST YOU, TORCH!
-WHAT? -WHO ARE YOU?!
THROWN INTO A CELL, THE TORCH WALKS AROUND LIKE A TRAPPED ANIMAL
MY NAME'S JOHNSON-THE SCREWS TIPPED ME OFF YOU WERE COMING... TOO BAD YOU CAN'T PROVE YOU WERE FRAMED!
FRAMED! HOW'D YOU KNOW?
I USED TO BE IN TH' RACING RACKET TILL I CROSSED BLACKIE ROSS... HE SURE GOT A SWEET RACKET..
HE ALWAYS USES A PLANE TO PUMP INCENDIARY BULLETS INTO THE CARS.. THE CAR GOES UP IN FLAMES AND ROSS'S CAR COMES IN, AN EASY WINNER!
I'M GOING TO GET THAT GUY!

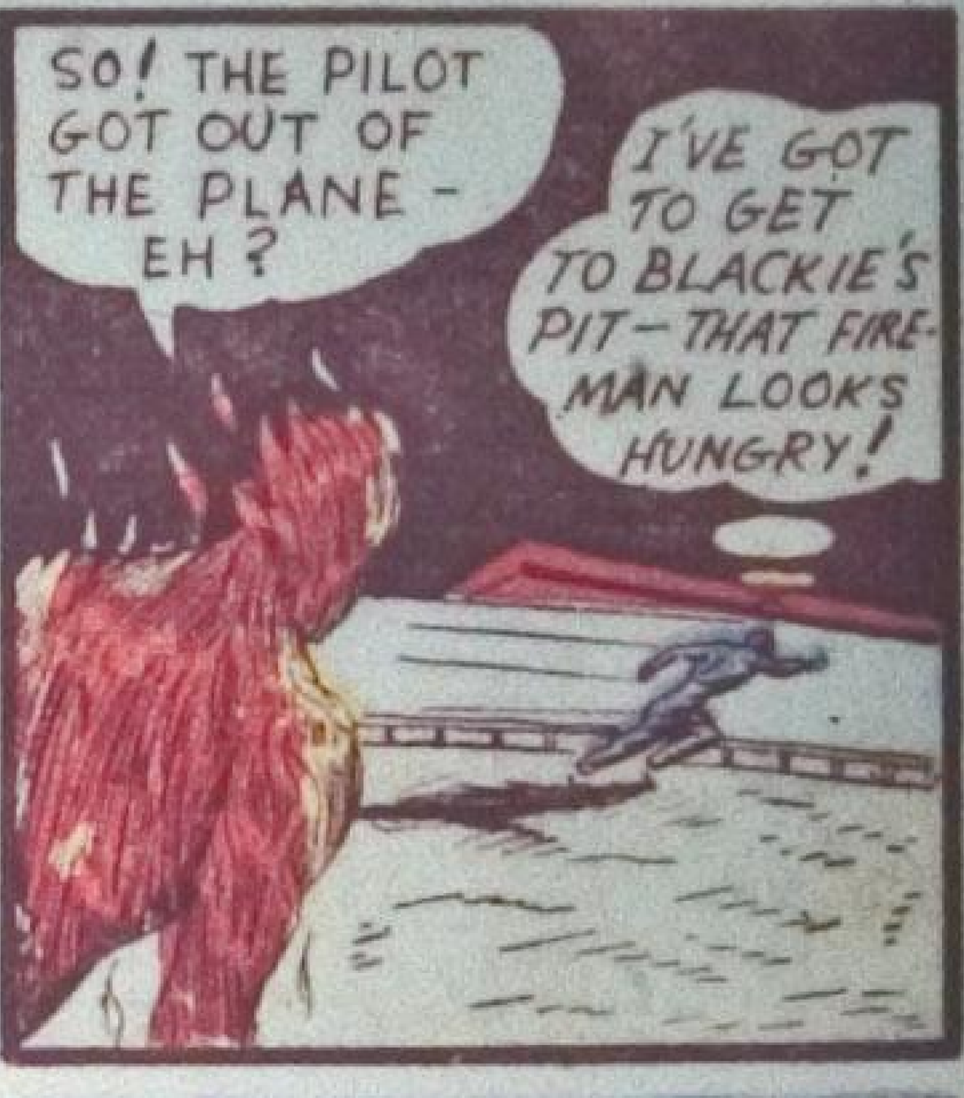

NOW DETERMINED TO GET ROSS, THE TORCH FLINGS HIS FLAMING BODY AT THE STEEL BARS, WHICH PART, WITHOUT RESISTING UNDER THE TERRIFIC HEAT..
AND I THOUGHT DE DAY OF MIRACLES WUZ OVER!
SO LONG SERGEANT I'LL BE SEEING YOU, WHEN I GET THE REAL KILLERS!—
WHAT TH'
AS COPS TRY TO GRAB HIM-TORCH CUTS A PATH OF FLAME ON THE WOODEN FLOOR!—
THE BULLETS ARE MELTING BEFORE THEY TOUCH HIM!— SEND OUT A RADIO CALL!
?
AS THE TORCH BURNS THRU THE ENTRANCE DOOR, MACHINE GUNS CLATTER....
WITH A POLICE CAR IN HOT PURSUIT OF THE TORCH, THE LATTER WHIRLS- LIFTS HIS ARM AND SENDS A STREAK OF FLAME SAILING INTO THE TIRES WITH PERFECT AIM!
POLICE
Y-2
BOOM!
WHILE OTHER CARS CLOSE IN ON HIM, A SUDDEN LEAP CARRIES HIM FAR OVER THE AUTOS!—
SO LONG FELLOWS!
?
LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO GO TO THE RACES..
ANITA CLASSIC
DAYS LATER WE FIND THE TORCH DRESSED SHABBILY IN FRONT OF A POSTER!—
WHO KNOWS— I MIGHT PICK UP ROSS'S TRAIL, THERE..
THEY'VE GOT POLICE WATCHING FOR ME AT THE GATE - BUT THIS TREE WILL SERVE MY PURPOSE!—

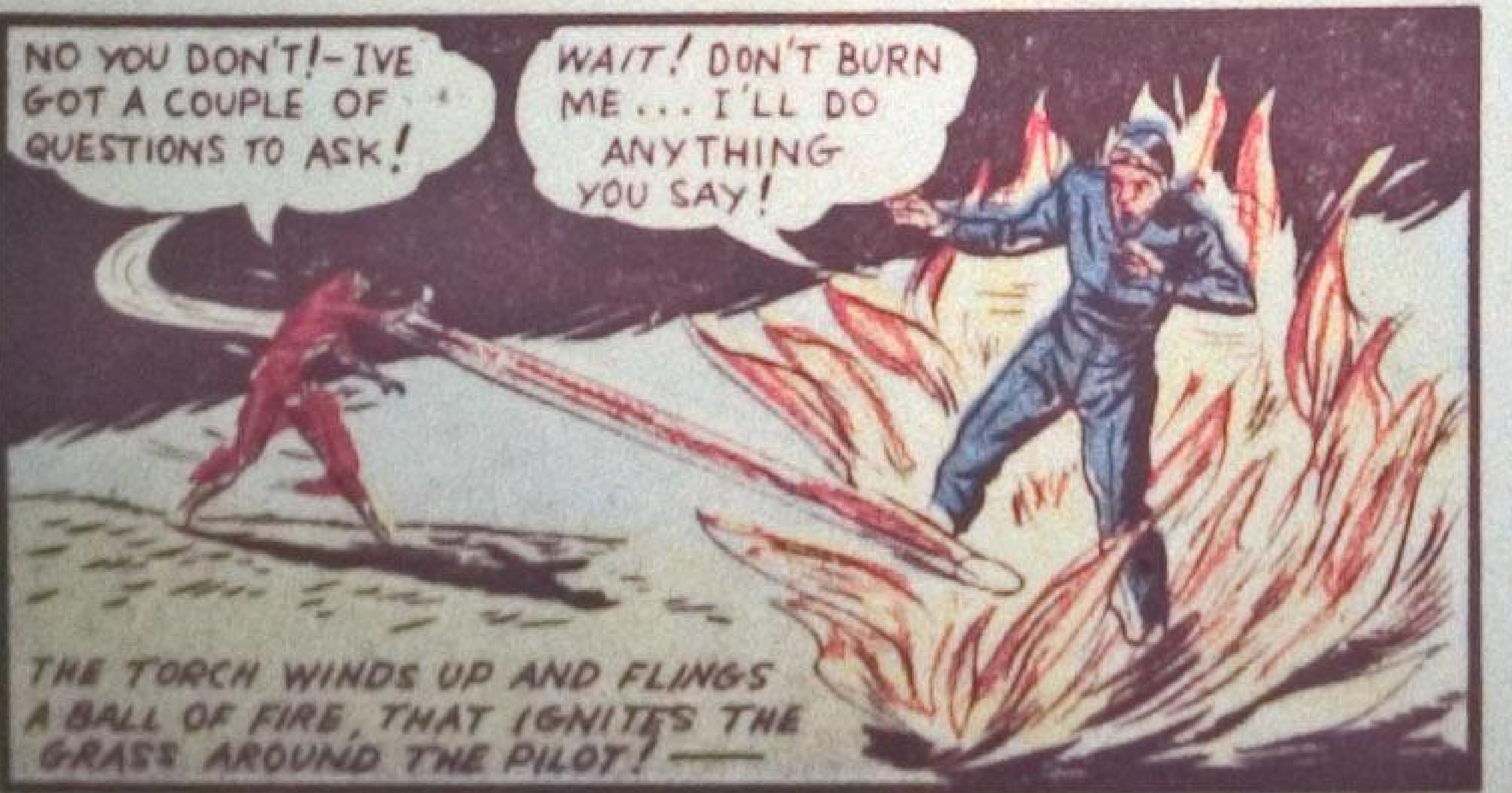

GREAT SCOTT! THAT'S THE DEATH PLANE I SAW AT TIPTON!—
THE RACE IS ON!— AND CARS GO STREAKING BY— WHEN SUDDENLY A STRONGER MOTOR DRONES OVERHEAD— IT'S AN AIRPLANE!—

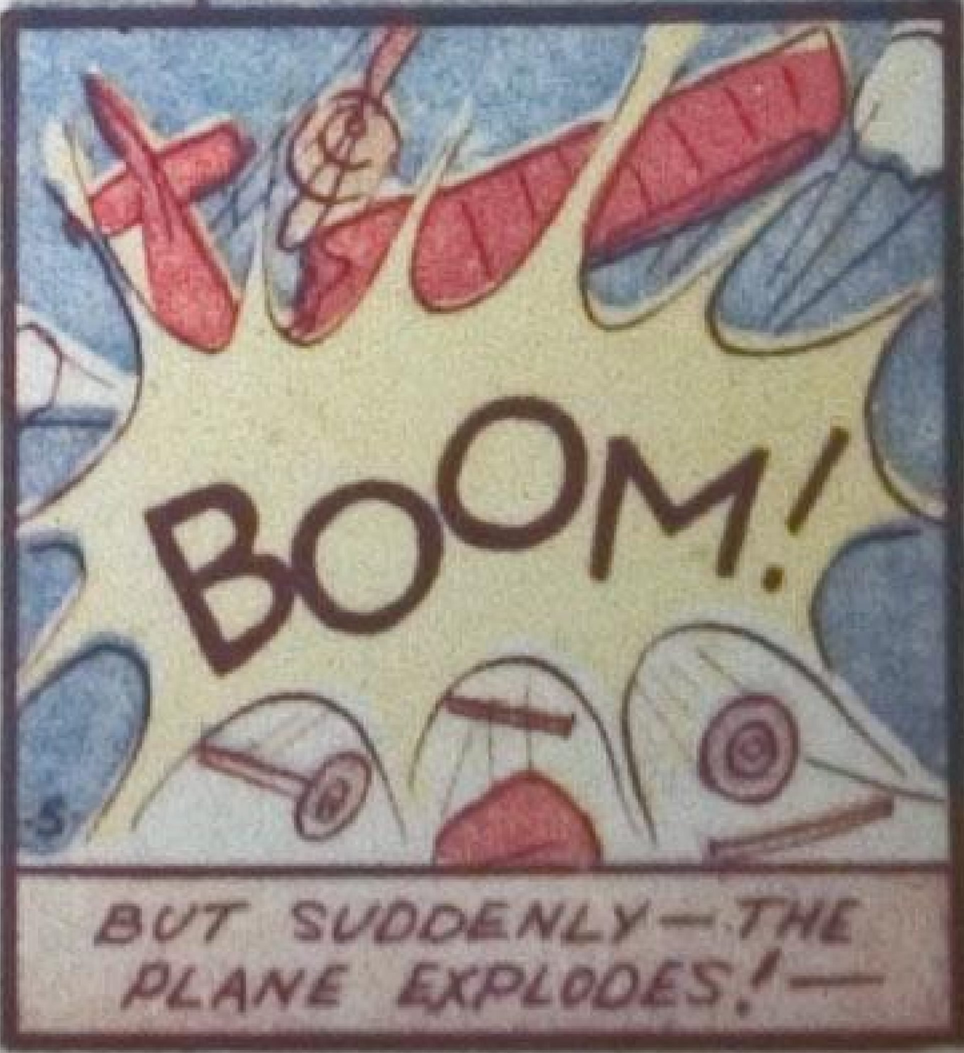

I'LL GET THAT SHIP WHEN SHE PASSES ME AGAIN...
THE TORCH PUTS ON THE FLAME

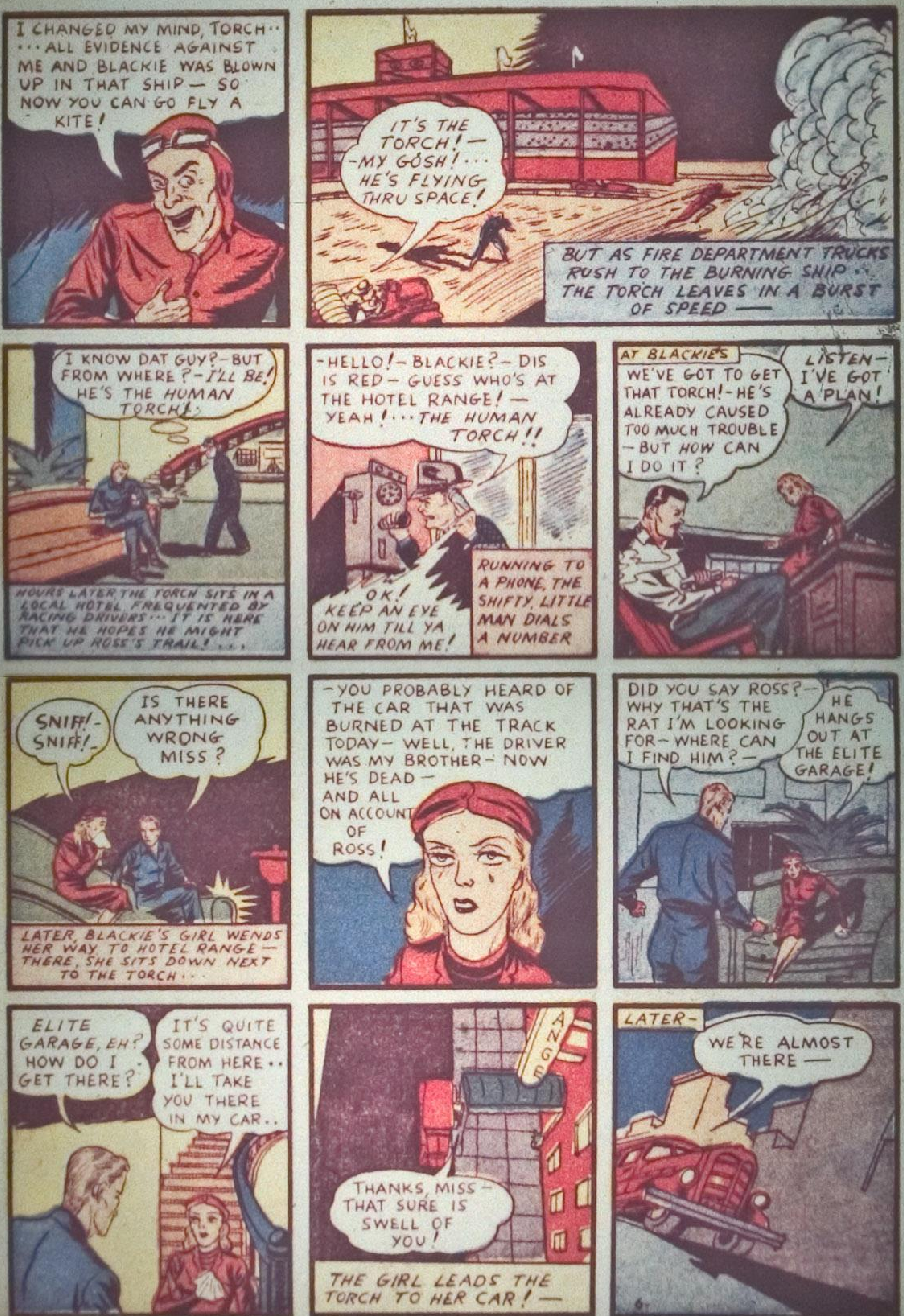

① AS THE PLANE DIPS AND LETS LOOSE A BARRAGE OF INCENDIARY BULLETS, THE TORCH LEAPS ONTO THE WINGS, WHICH MELT INSTANTLY!—
HAH! IT'S MELTING
② THEN MOVING SWIFTLY, THE TORCH PUTS HIS HOT ARMS ON THE MOTOR!—
③ —WHILE THE RACER CRASHES THE RAIL IN A MASS OF SMOKE AND FLAMES!—

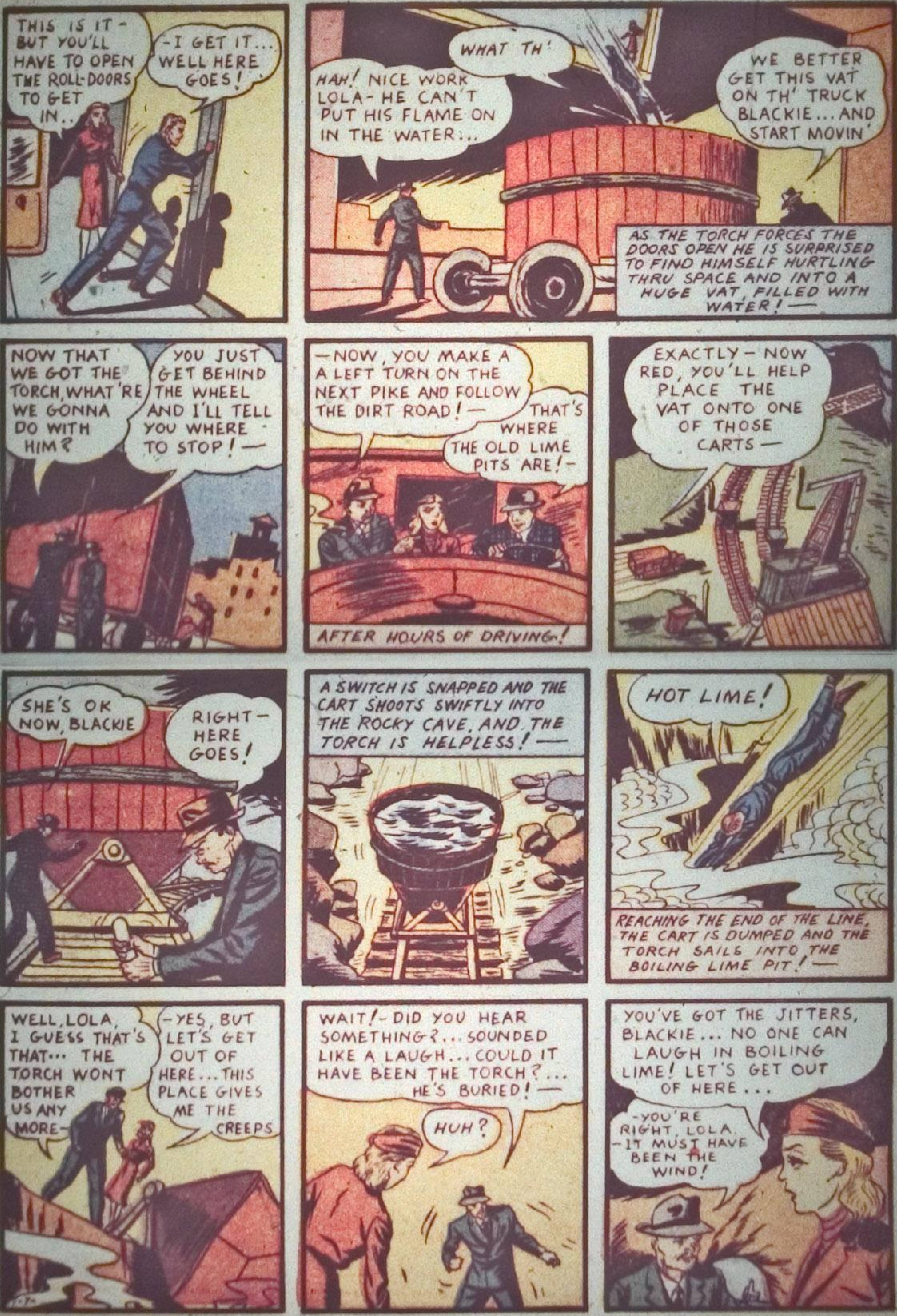

A STIFF BREEZE FANS THE FLAMES AS THE PLANE DROPS ONTO THE INNER FIELD!!—

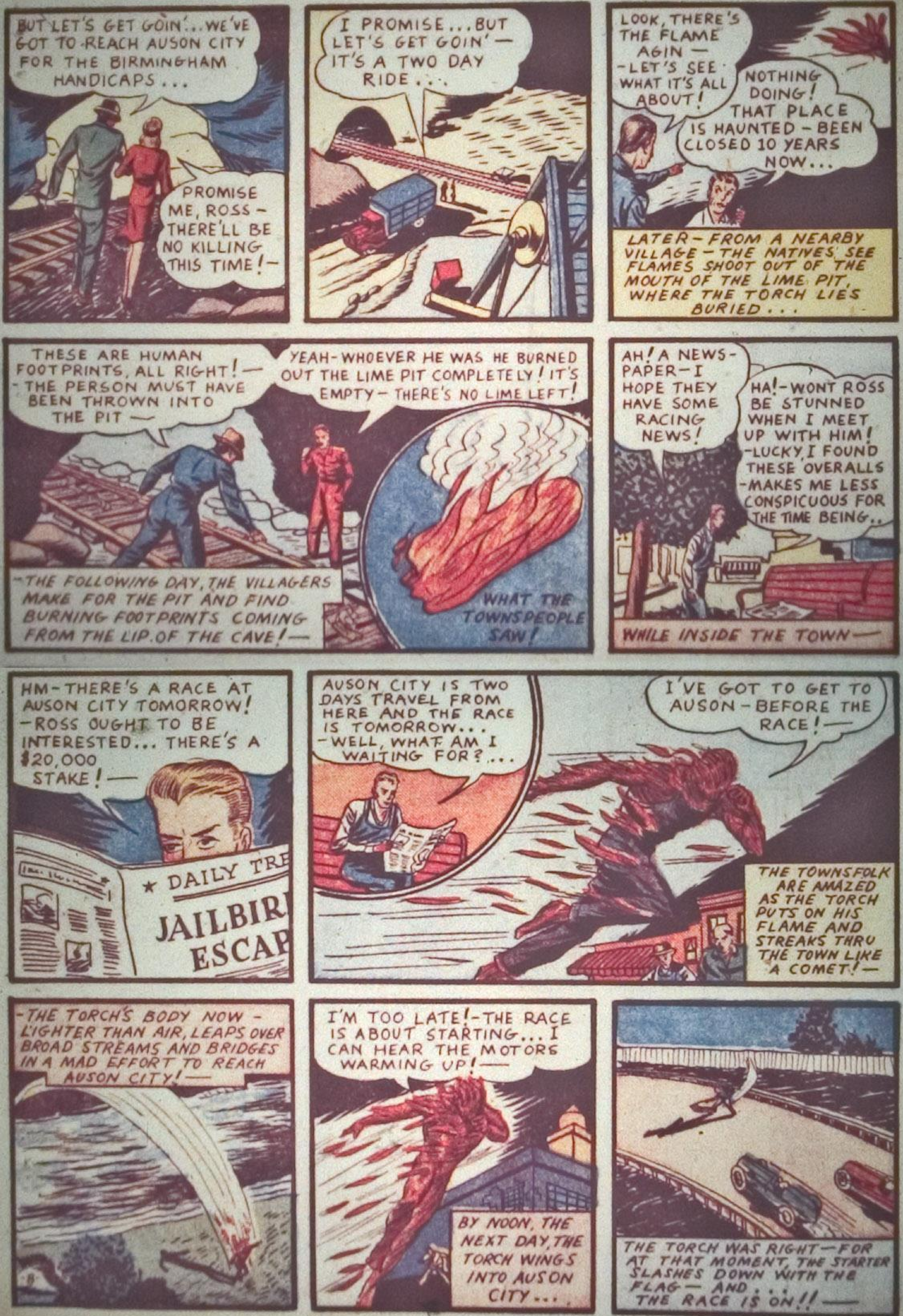

SO! THE PILOT GOT OUT OF THE PLANE - EH?
I'VE GOT TO GET TO BLACKIE'S PIT— THAT FIREMAN LOOKS HUNGRY!

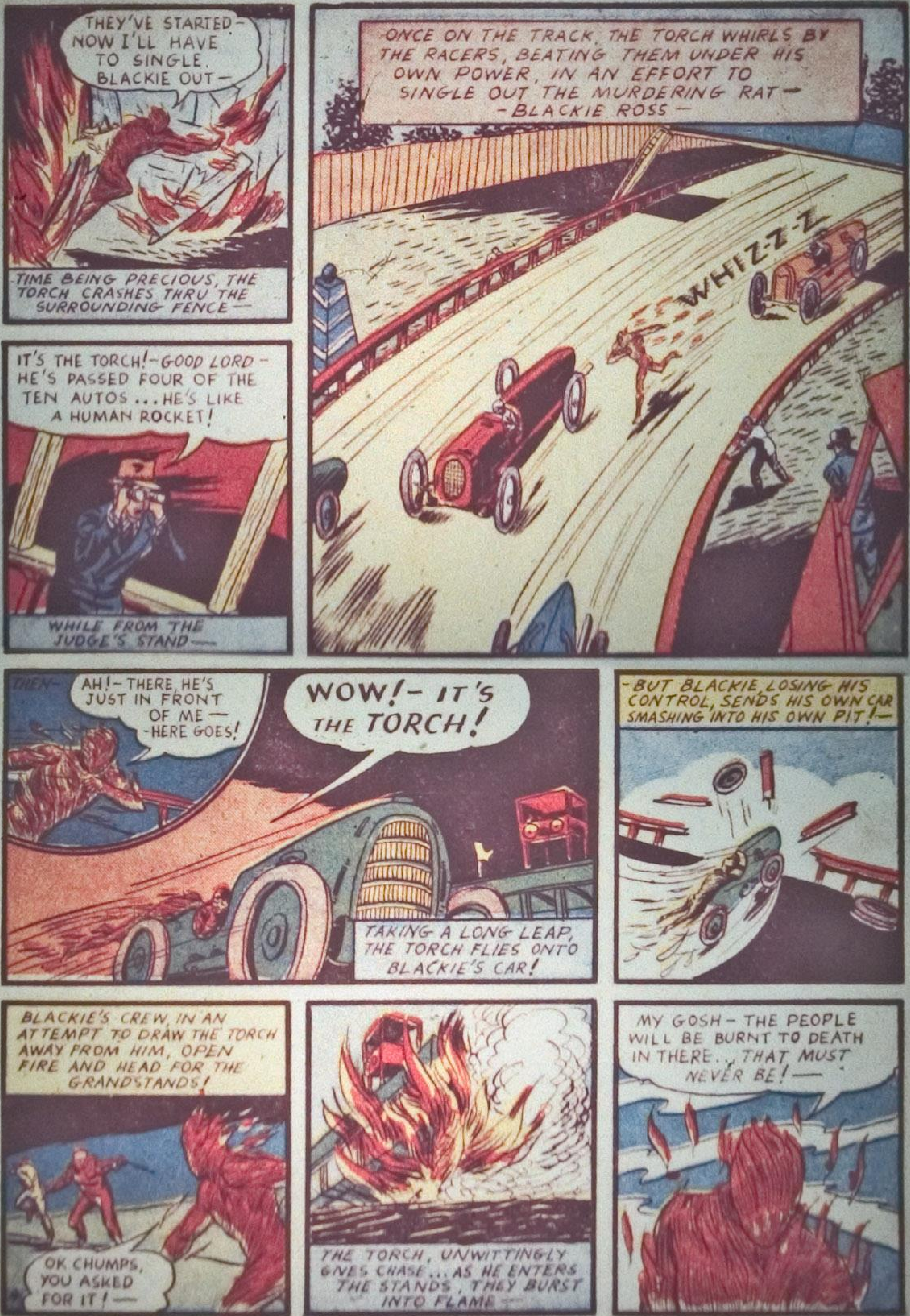

NO YOU DON'T!—IVE GOT A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS TO ASK!
WAIT! DON'T BURN ME... I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU SAY!
THE TORCH WINDS UP AND FLINGS A BALL OF FIRE, THAT IGNITES THE GRASS AROUND THE PILOT!—

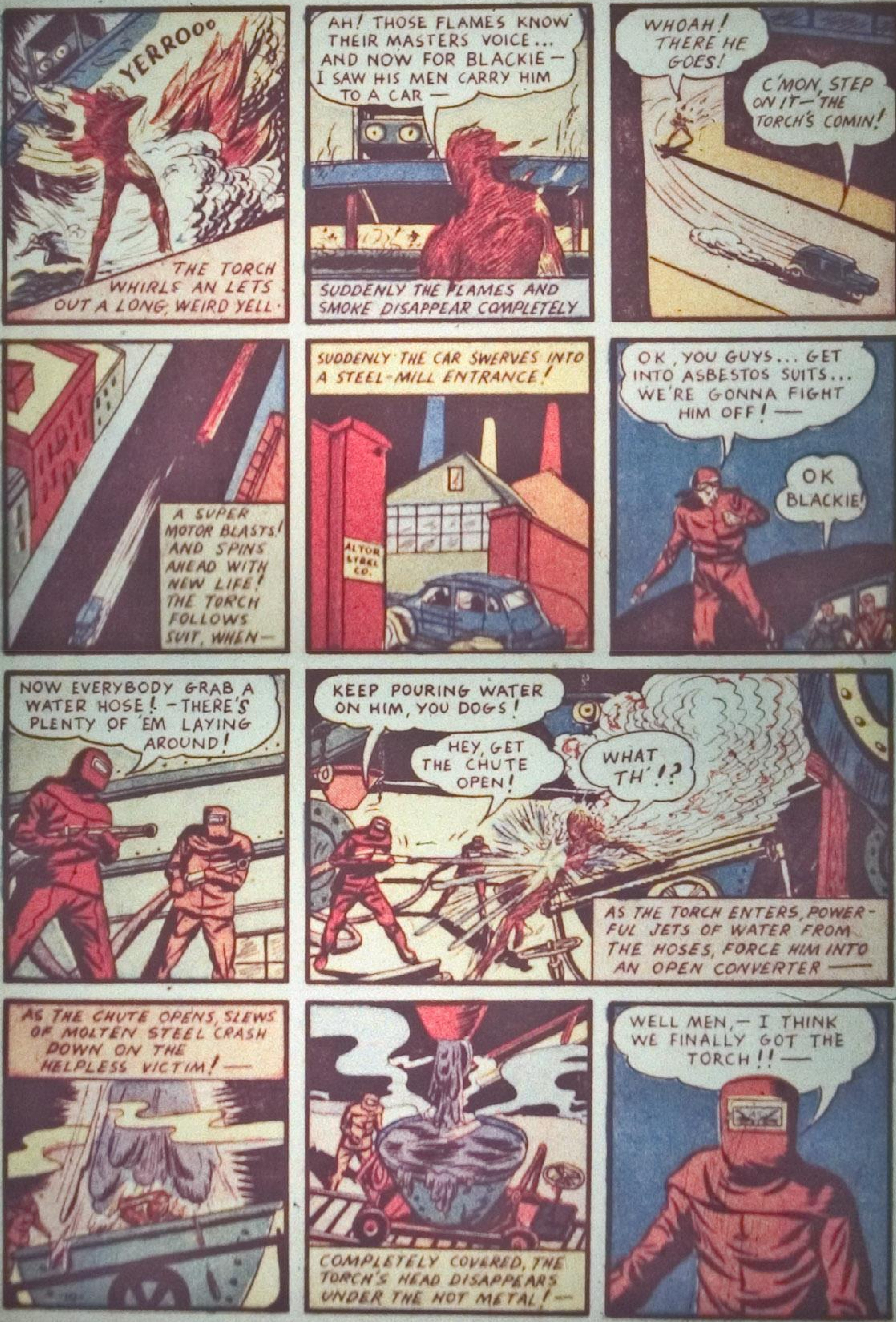

BOOM!
5
BUT SUDDENLY— THE PLANE EXPLODES!—

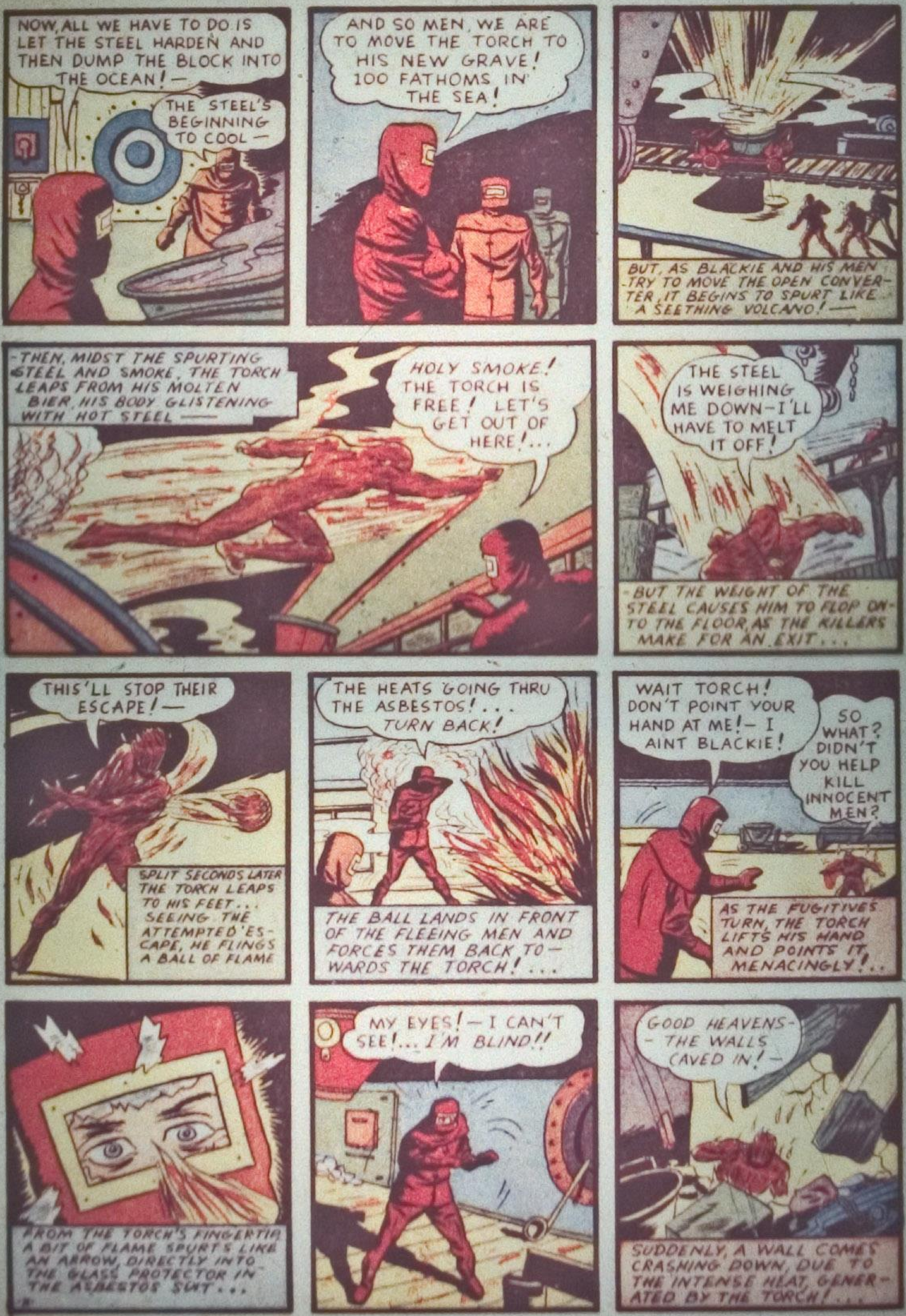

I CHANGED MY MIND, TORCH… …ALL EVIDENCE AGAINST ME AND BLACKIE WAS BLOWN UP IN THAT SHIP — SO NOW YOU CAN GO FLY A KITE!
IT'S THE TORCH! — MY GOSH!… HE'S FLYING THRU SPACE!
BUT AS FIRE DEPARTMENT TRUCKS RUSH TO THE BURNING SHIP… THE TORCH LEAVES IN A BURST OF SPEED —
I KNOW DAT GUY? — BUT FROM WHERE? — I'LL BE! HE'S THE HUMAN TORCH!
HOURS LATER THE TORCH SITS IN A LOCAL HOTEL FREQUENTED BY RACING DRIVERS… IT IS HERE THAT HE HOPES HE MIGHT PICK UP ROSS'S TRAIL!…
- HELLO! — BLACKIE? — DIS IS RED — GUESS WHO'S AT THE HOTEL RANGE! — YEAH!… THE HUMAN TORCH!!
OK! KEEP AN EYE ON HIM TILL YA HEAR FROM ME!
RUNNING TO A PHONE, THE SHIFTY LITTLE MAN DIALS A NUMBER
AT BLACKIE'S
WE'VE GOT TO GET THAT TORCH! — HE'S ALREADY CAUSED TOO MUCH TROUBLE — BUT HOW CAN I DO IT?
LISTEN — I'VE GOT A PLAN!
SNIFF! — SNIFF! —
IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG MISS?
LATER, BLACKIE'S GIRL WENDS HER WAY TO HOTEL RANGE — THERE, SHE SITS DOWN NEXT TO THE TORCH…
— YOU PROBABLY HEARD OF THE CAR THAT WAS BURNED AT THE TRACK TODAY — WELL, THE DRIVER WAS MY BROTHER — NOW HE'S DEAD — AND ALL ON ACCOUNT OF ROSS!
DID YOU SAY ROSS? — WHY THAT'S THE RAT I'M LOOKING FOR — WHERE CAN I FIND HIM? —
HE HANGS OUT AT THE ELITE GARAGE!
ELITE GARAGE, EH? HOW DO I GET THERE?
IT'S QUITE SOME DISTANCE FROM HERE… I'LL TAKE YOU THERE IN MY CAR..
RANGE
THANKS, MISS — THAT SURE IS SWELL OF YOU!
THE GIRL LEADS THE TORCH TO HER CAR! —
LATER —
WE'RE ALMOST THERE —

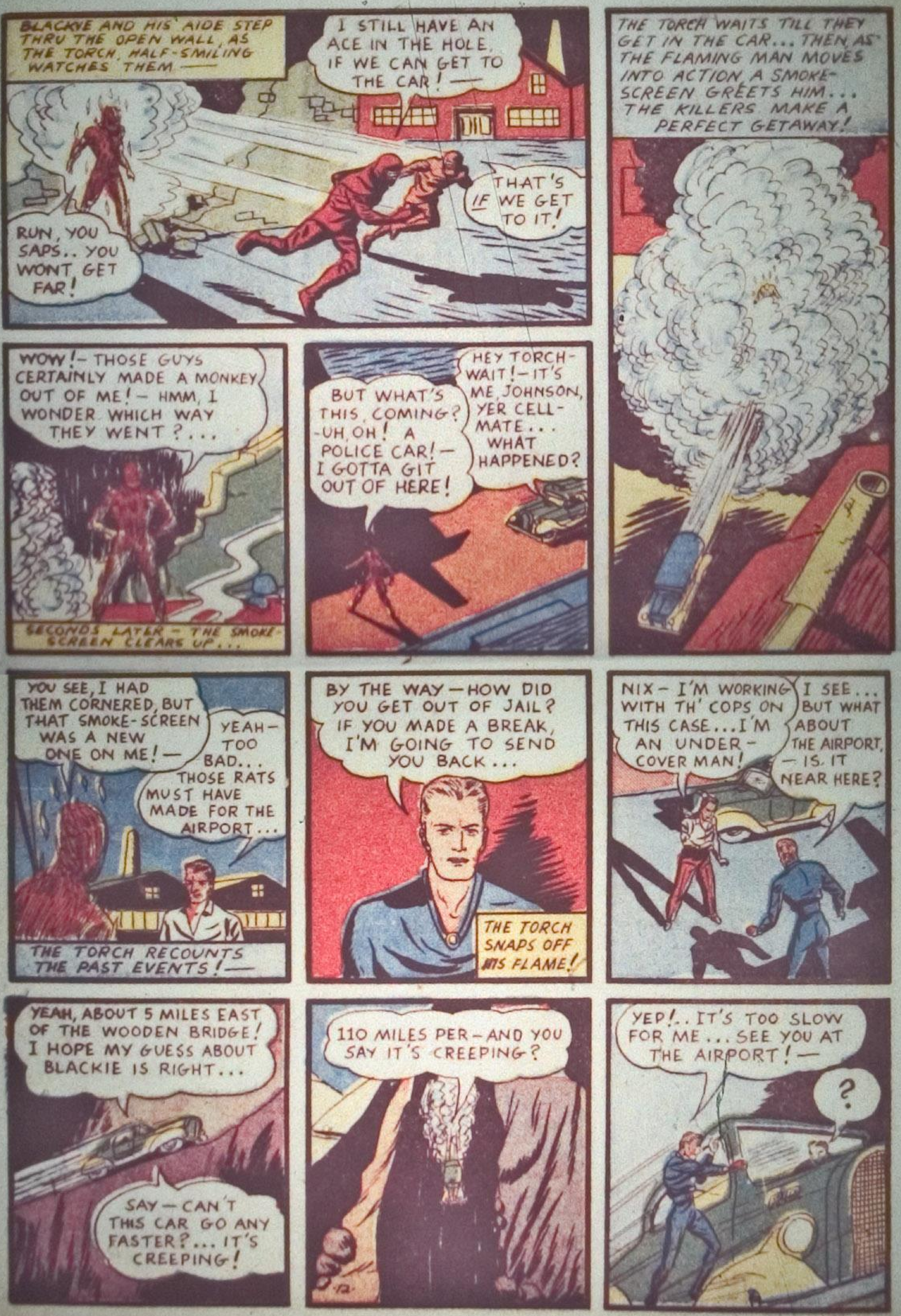

THIS IS IT - BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO OPEN THE ROLL-DOORS TO GET IN...
-I GET IT... WELL HERE GOES!
WHAT TH'
HAH! NICE WORK LOLA - HE CAN'T PUT HIS FLAME ON IN THE WATER...
WE BETTER GET THIS VAT ON TH' TRUCK BLACKIE... AND START MOVIN'
AS THE TORCH FORCES THE DOORS OPEN HE IS SURPRISED TO FIND HIMSELF HURTLING THRU SPACE AND INTO A HUGE VAT, FILLED WITH WATER!—
NOW THAT WE GOT THE TORCH, WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO WITH HIM?
YOU JUST GET BEHIND THE WHEEL AND I'LL TELL YOU WHERE TO STOP!—
—NOW, YOU MAKE A A LEFT TURN ON THE NEXT PIKE AND FOLLOW THE DIRT ROAD!—
THAT'S WHERE THE OLD LIME PITS ARE!-
AFTER HOURS OF DRIVING!
EXACTLY — NOW RED, YOU'LL HELP PLACE THE VAT ONTO ONE OF THOSE CARTS —
SHE'S OK NOW, BLACKIE
RIGHT — HERE GOES!
A SWITCH IS SNAPPED AND THE CART SHOOTS SWIFTLY INTO THE ROCKY CAVE, AND THE TORCH IS HELPLESS!—
HOT LIME!
REACHING THE END OF THE LINE, THE CART IS DUMPED AND THE TORCH SAILS INTO THE BOILING LIME PIT!—
WELL, LOLA, I GUESS THAT'S THAT... THE TORCH WONT BOTHER US ANY MORE-
-YES, BUT LET'S GET OUT OF HERE... THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS
WAIT!- DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING?... SOUNDED LIKE A LAUGH... COULD IT HAVE BEEN THE TORCH?... HE'S BURIED!—
HUH?
YOU'VE GOT THE JITTERS, BLACKIE... NO ONE CAN LAUGH IN BOILING LIME! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE...
-YOU'RE RIGHT, LOLA. -IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE WIND!
-7-

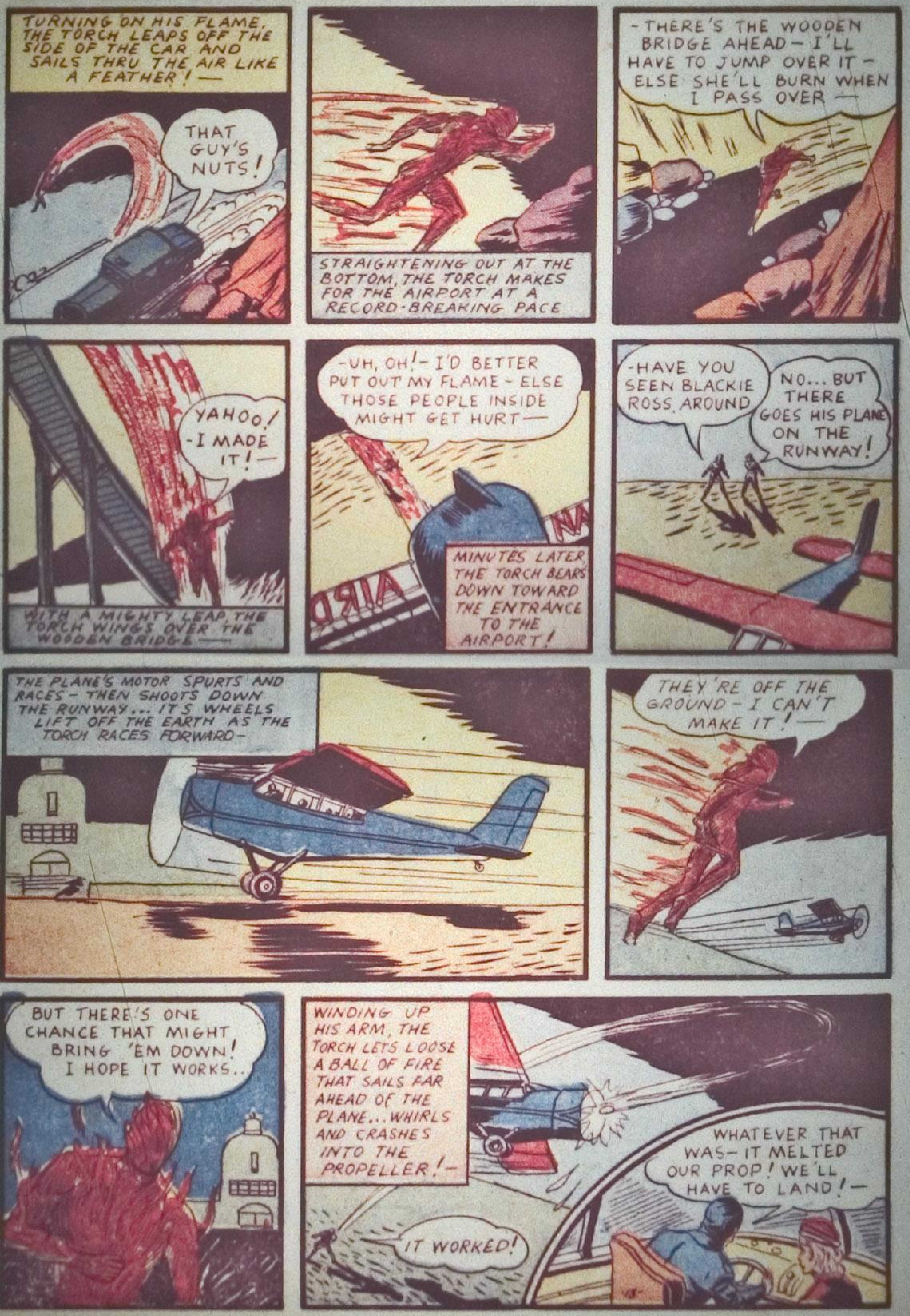

BUT LET'S GET GOIN'... WE'VE GOT TO REACH AUSON CITY FOR THE BIRMINGHAM HANDICAPS...
PROMISE ME, ROSS - THERE'LL BE NO KILLING THIS TIME!-
I PROMISE... BUT LET'S GET GOIN' - IT'S A TWO DAY RIDE...
LOOK, THERE'S THE FLAME AGIN - -LET'S SEE WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT!
NOTHING DOING! THAT PLACE IS HAUNTED - BEEN CLOSED 10 YEARS NOW...
LATER - FROM A NEARBY VILLAGE - THE NATIVES SEE FLAMES SHOOT OUT OF THE MOUTH OF THE LIME PIT, WHERE THE TORCH LIES BURIED...
THESE ARE HUMAN FOOTPRINTS, ALL RIGHT! - -THE PERSON MUST HAVE BEEN THROWN INTO THE PIT -
YEAH - WHOEVER HE WAS HE BURNED OUT THE LIME PIT COMPLETELY! IT'S EMPTY - THERE'S NO LIME LEFT!
-THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE VILLAGERS MAKE FOR THE PIT AND FIND BURNING FOOTPRINTS COMING FROM THE LIP OF THE CAVE!-
WHAT THE TOWNSPEOPLE SAW!
AH! A NEWSPAPER - I HOPE THEY HAVE SOME RACING NEWS!
HA! - WONT ROSS BE STUNNED WHEN I MEET UP WITH HIM! -LUCKY I FOUND THESE OVERALLS -MAKES ME LESS CONSPICUOUS FOR THE TIME BEING..
WHILE INSIDE THE TOWN -
HM - THERE'S A RACE AT AUSON CITY TOMORROW! -ROSS OUGHT TO BE INTERESTED... THERE'S A $20,000 STAKE! -
★ DAILY TRI
JAILBIR
ESCAP
AUSON CITY IS TWO DAYS TRAVEL FROM HERE AND THE RACE IS TOMORROW... -WELL, WHAT AM I WAITING FOR?...
I'VE GOT TO GET TO AUSON - BEFORE THE RACE! -
THE TOWNSFOLK ARE AMAZED AS THE TORCH PUTS ON HIS FLAME AND STREAKS THRU THE TOWN LIKE A COMET! -
-THE TORCH'S BODY NOW - LIGHTER THAN AIR, LEAPS OVER BROAD STREAMS AND BRIDGES IN A MAD EFFORT TO REACH AUSON CITY! -
I'M TOO LATE! - THE RACE IS ABOUT STARTING... I CAN HEAR THE MOTORS WARMING UP! -
BY NOON, THE NEXT DAY, THE TORCH WINGS INTO AUSON CITY...
THE TORCH WAS RIGHT - FOR AT THAT MOMENT, THE STARTER SLASHES DOWN WITH THE FLAG - AND... THE RACE IS ON!! -

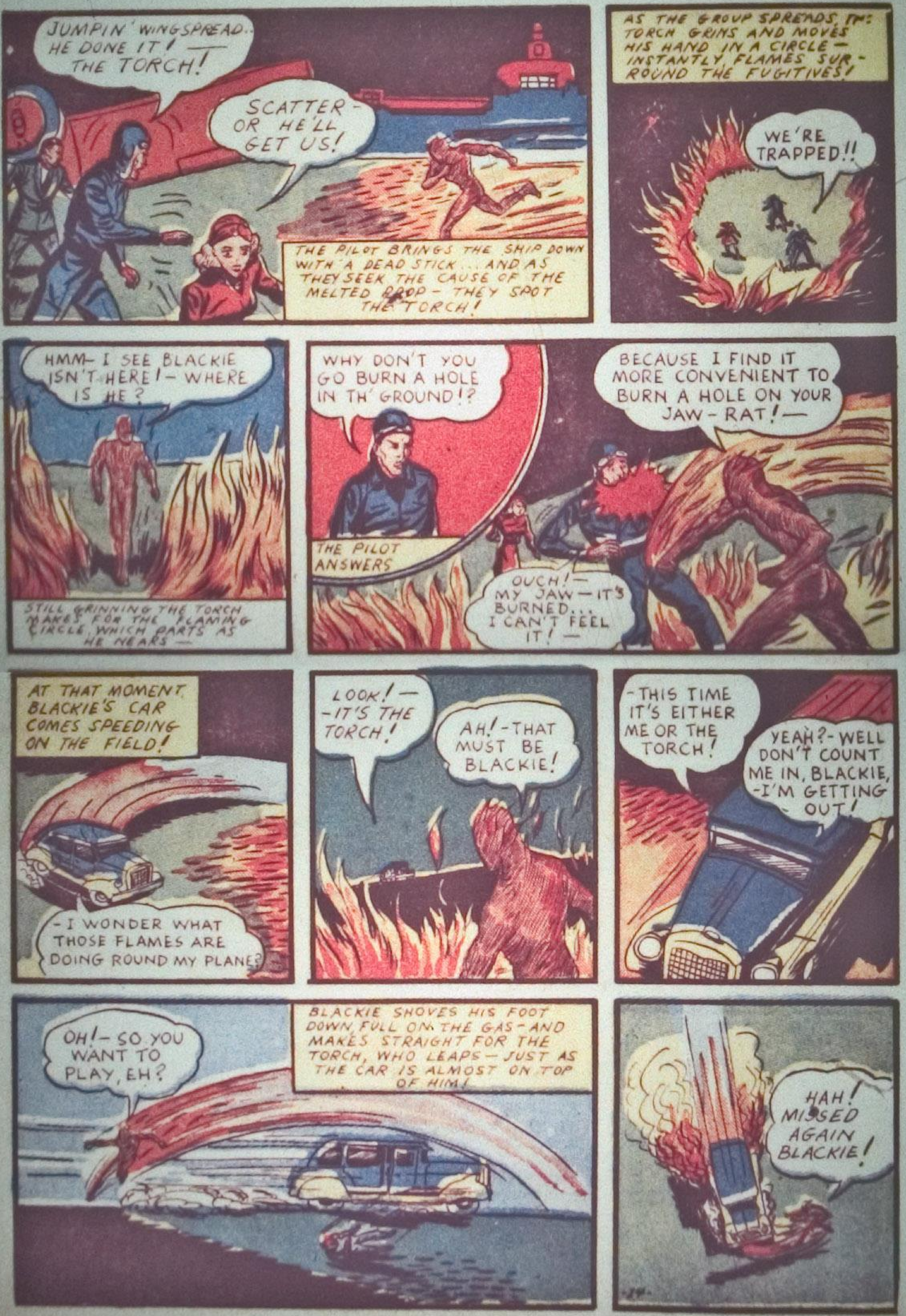

THEY'VE STARTED - NOW I'LL HAVE TO SINGLE BLACKIE OUT -
TIME BEING PRECIOUS, THE TORCH CRASHES THRU THE SURROUNDING FENCE -
-ONCE ON THE TRACK, THE TORCH WHIRLS BY THE RACERS, BEATING THEM UNDER HIS OWN POWER, IN AN EFFORT TO SINGLE OUT THE MURDERING RAT - -BLACKIE ROSS-
WHIZ-Z-Z
IT'S THE TORCH! - GOOD LORD - HE'S PASSED FOUR OF THE TEN AUTOS ... HE'S LIKE A HUMAN ROCKET!
WHILE FROM THE JUDGE'S STAND -
THEN-
AH! - THERE, HE'S JUST IN FRONT OF ME - -HERE GOES!
WOW! - IT'S THE TORCH!
TAKING A LONG LEAP, THE TORCH FLIES ONTO BLACKIE'S CAR!
-BUT BLACKIE, LOSING HIS CONTROL, SENDS HIS OWN CAR SMASHING INTO HIS OWN PIT! -
BLACKIE'S CREW, IN AN ATTEMPT TO DRAW THE TORCH AWAY FROM HIM, OPEN FIRE AND HEAD FOR THE GRANDSTANDS!
OK CHUMPS, YOU ASKED FOR IT! -
THE TORCH, UNWITTINGLY GIVES CHASE ... AS HE ENTERS THE STANDS, THEY BURST INTO FLAME -
MY GOSH - THE PEOPLE WILL BE BURNT TO DEATH IN THERE... THAT MUST NEVER BE! -

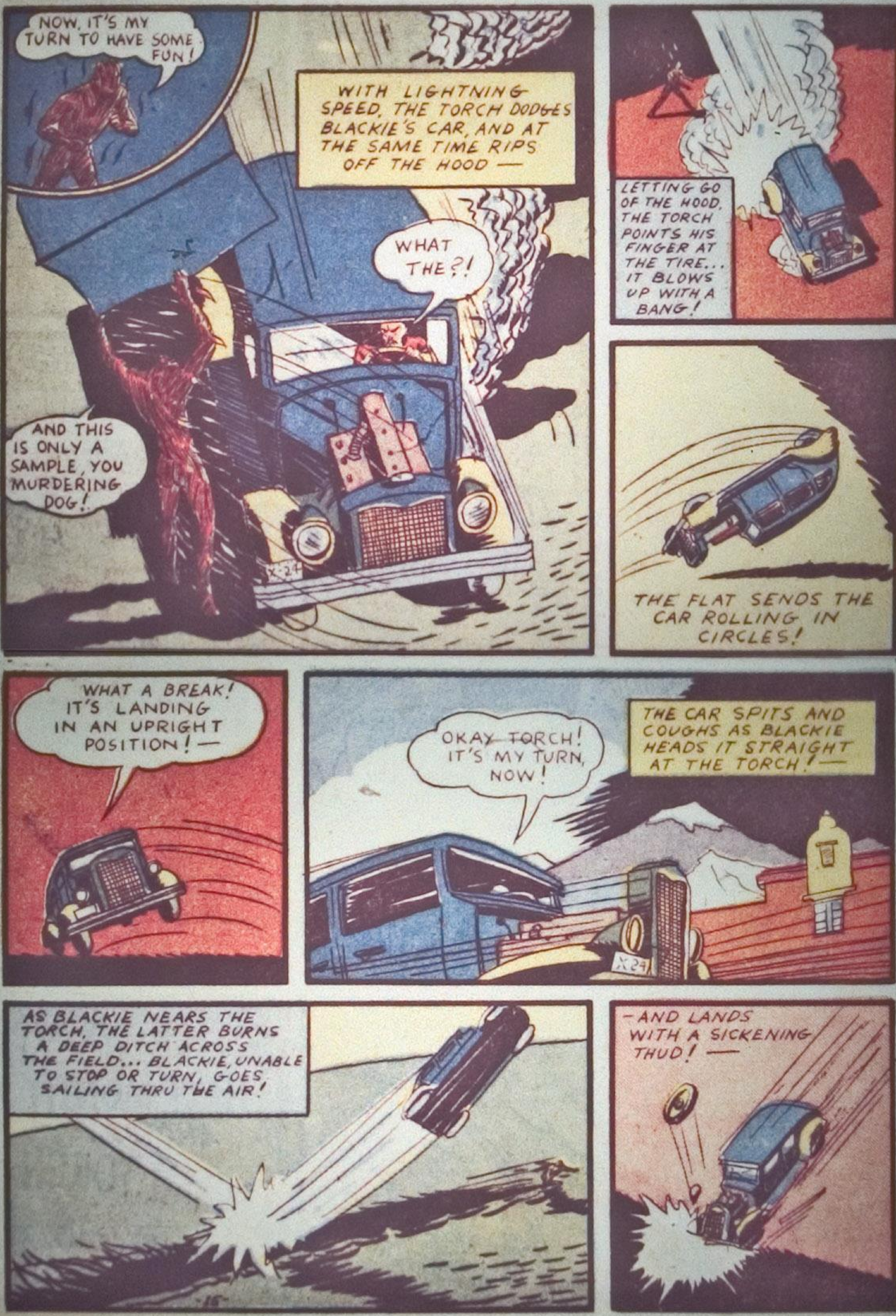

YERROOo
THE TORCH WHIRLS AN LETS OUT A LONG, WEIRD YELL.
AH! THOSE FLAMES KNOW THEIR MASTERS VOICE... AND NOW FOR BLACKIE — I SAW HIS MEN CARRY HIM TO A CAR —
SUDDENLY THE FLAMES AND SMOKE DISAPPEAR COMPLETELY
WHOAH! THERE HE GOES!
C'MON, STEP ON IT — THE TORCH'S COMIN!
A SUPER MOTOR BLASTS! AND SPINS AHEAD WITH NEW LIFE! THE TORCH FOLLOWS SUIT, WHEN —
SUDDENLY THE CAR SWERVES INTO A STEEL-MILL ENTRANCE!
ALTON STEEL CO.
OK, YOU GUYS... GET INTO ASBESTOS SUITS... WE'RE GONNA FIGHT HIM OFF! —
OK BLACKIE!
NOW EVERYBODY GRAB A WATER HOSE! — THERE'S PLENTY OF 'EM LAYING AROUND!
KEEP POURING WATER ON HIM, YOU DOGS!
HEY, GET THE CHUTE OPEN!
WHAT TH'!?
AS THE TORCH ENTERS, POWERFUL JETS OF WATER FROM THE HOSES, FORCE HIM INTO AN OPEN CONVERTER —
AS THE CHUTE OPENS, SLEWS OF MOLTEN STEEL CRASH DOWN ON THE HELPLESS VICTIM! —
COMPLETELY COVERED, THE TORCH'S HEAD DISAPPEARS UNDER THE HOT METAL! —
WELL MEN, — I THINK WE FINALLY GOT THE TORCH!! —

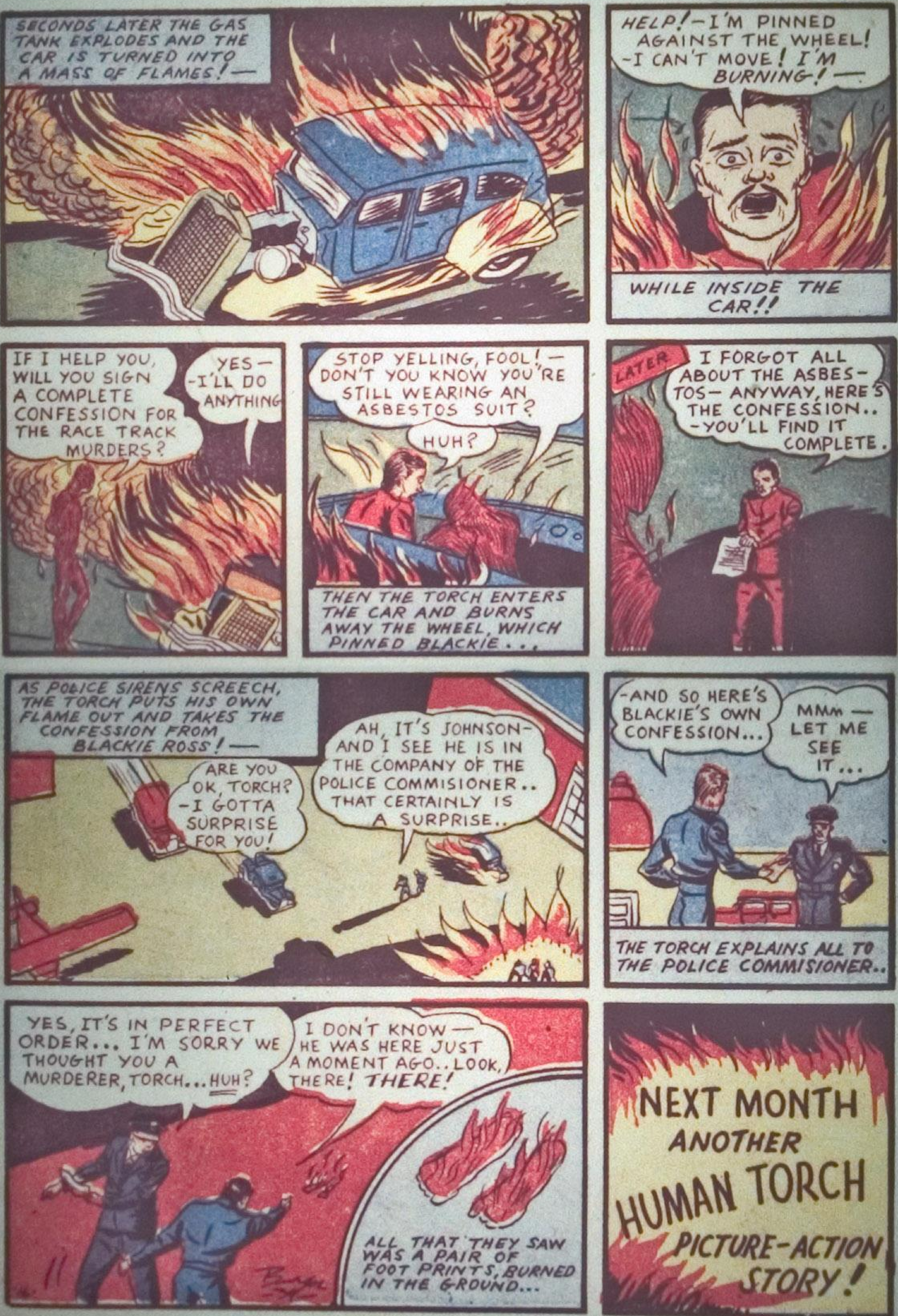

NOW, ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS LET THE STEEL HARDEN AND THEN DUMP THE BLOCK INTO THE OCEAN!—
THE STEEL'S BEGINNING TO COOL—
AND SO MEN, WE ARE TO MOVE THE TORCH TO HIS NEW GRAVE! 100 FATHOMS IN THE SEA!
BUT, AS BLACKIE AND HIS MEN TRY TO MOVE THE OPEN CONVERTER, IT BEGINS TO SPURT LIKE A SEETHING VOLCANO!—
-THEN, MIDST THE SPURTING STEEL AND SMOKE, THE TORCH LEAPS FROM HIS MOLTEN BIER, HIS BODY GLISTENING WITH HOT STEEL—
HOLY SMOKE! THE TORCH IS FREE! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!...
THE STEEL IS WEIGHING ME DOWN—I'LL HAVE TO MELT IT OFF!
-BUT THE WEIGHT OF THE STEEL CAUSES HIM TO FLOP ONTO THE FLOOR, AS THE KILLERS MAKE FOR AN EXIT...
THIS'LL STOP THEIR ESCAPE!—
SPLIT SECONDS LATER THE TORCH LEAPS TO HIS FEET... SEEING THE ATTEMPTED ESCAPE, HE FLINGS A BALL OF FLAME
THE HEATS GOING THRU THE ASBESTOS!... TURN BACK!
THE BALL LANDS IN FRONT OF THE FLEEING MEN AND FORCES THEM BACK TOWARDS THE TORCH!...
WAIT TORCH! DON'T POINT YOUR HAND AT ME!—I AINT BLACKIE!
SO WHAT? DIDN'T YOU HELP KILL INNOCENT MEN?
AS THE FUGITIVES TURN, THE TORCH LIFTS HIS HAND AND POINTS IT, MENACINGLY!...
FROM THE TORCH'S FINGERTIP A BIT OF FLAME SPURTS LIKE AN ARROW, DIRECTLY INTO THE GLASS PROTECTOR IN THE ASBESTOS SUIT...
MY EYES!—I CAN'T SEE!... I'M BLIND!!
GOOD HEAVENS—THE WALLS CAVED IN!—
SUDDENLY, A WALL COMES CRASHING DOWN, DUE TO THE INTENSE HEAT, GENERATED BY THE TORCH!...

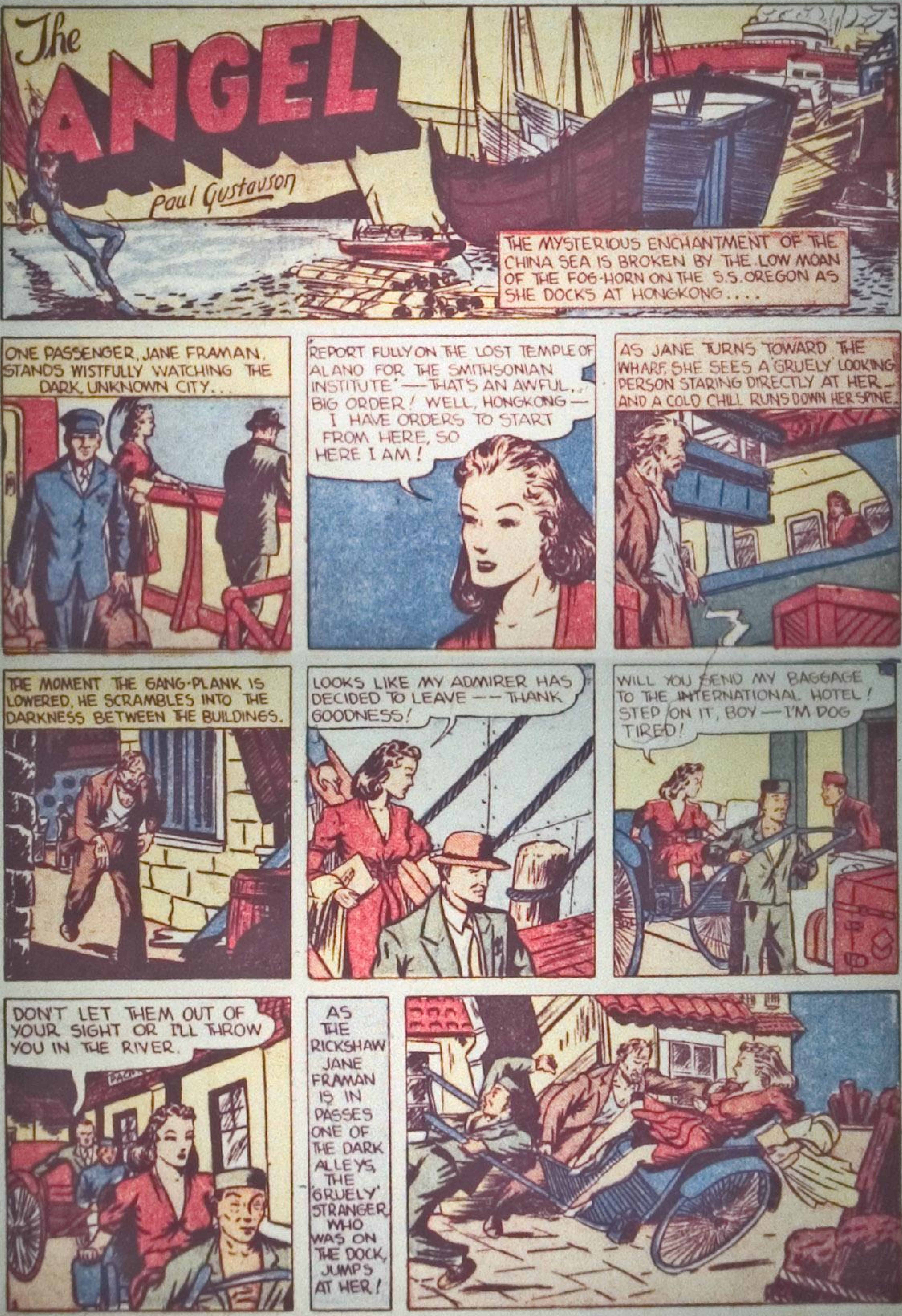

BLACKIE AND HIS AIDE STEP THRU THE OPEN WALL, AS THE TORCH, HALF-SMILING WATCHES THEM —
I STILL HAVE AN ACE IN THE HOLE, IF WE CAN GET TO THE CAR! —
THAT'S IF WE GET TO IT!
RUN, YOU SAPS.. YOU WONT GET FAR!
THE TORCH WAITS TILL THEY GET IN THE CAR... THEN AS THE FLAMING MAN MOVES INTO ACTION, A SMOKE-SCREEN GREETS HIM... THE KILLERS MAKE A PERFECT GETAWAY!
WOW! - THOSE GUYS CERTAINLY MADE A MONKEY OUT OF ME! - HMM, I WONDER WHICH WAY THEY WENT?...
SECONDS LATER - THE SMOKE-SCREEN CLEARS UP...
BUT WHAT'S THIS COMING? -UH, OH! A POLICE CAR! - I GOTTA GIT OUT OF HERE!
HEY TORCH - WAIT! - IT'S ME, JOHNSON, YER CELL-MATE... WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU SEE, I HAD THEM CORNERED, BUT THAT SMOKE-SCREEN WAS A NEW ONE ON ME! —
YEAH - TOO BAD... THOSE RATS MUST HAVE MADE FOR THE AIRPORT...
THE TORCH RECOUNTS THE PAST EVENTS! —
BY THE WAY - HOW DID YOU GET OUT OF JAIL? IF YOU MADE A BREAK, I'M GOING TO SEND YOU BACK...
THE TORCH SNAPS OFF HIS FLAME!
NIX - I'M WORKING WITH TH' COPS ON THIS CASE... I'M AN UNDER-COVER MAN!
I SEE... BUT WHAT ABOUT THE AIRPORT, - IS IT NEAR HERE?
YEAH, ABOUT 5 MILES EAST OF THE WOODEN BRIDGE! I HOPE MY GUESS ABOUT BLACKIE IS RIGHT...
SAY - CAN'T THIS CAR GO ANY FASTER?... IT'S CREEPING!
110 MILES PER - AND YOU SAY IT'S CREEPING?
12
YEP!.. IT'S TOO SLOW FOR ME... SEE YOU AT THE AIRPORT! —
?

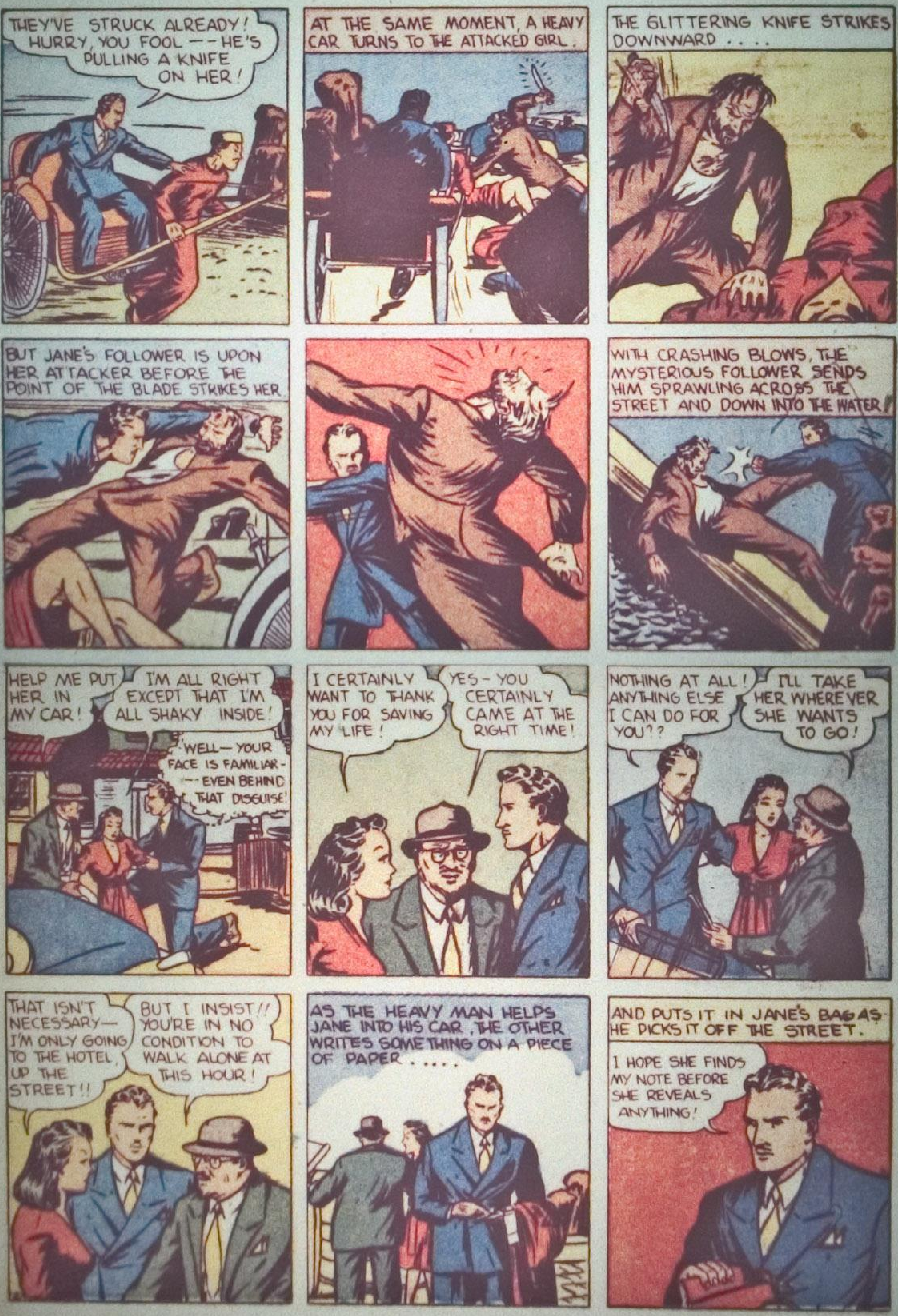

TURNING ON HIS FLAME, THE TORCH LEAPS OFF THE SIDE OF THE CAR AND SAILS THRU THE AIR LIKE A FEATHER! —
THAT GUY'S NUTS!
STRAIGHTENING OUT AT THE BOTTOM, THE TORCH MAKES FOR THE AIRPORT AT A RECORD-BREAKING PACE
— THERE'S THE WOODEN BRIDGE AHEAD — I'LL HAVE TO JUMP OVER IT — ELSE SHE'LL BURN WHEN I PASS OVER —
YAHOO! — I MADE IT! —
WITH A MIGHTY LEAP THE TORCH WINGS OVER THE WOODEN BRIDGE —
— UH, OH! — I'D BETTER PUT OUT MY FLAME — ELSE THOSE PEOPLE INSIDE MIGHT GET HURT —
AIRD
NA
MINUTES LATER, THE TORCH BEARS DOWN TOWARD THE ENTRANCE TO THE AIRPORT!
— HAVE YOU SEEN BLACKIE ROSS AROUND
NO... BUT THERE GOES HIS PLANE ON THE RUNWAY!
THE PLANE'S MOTOR SPURTS AND RACES — THEN SHOOTS DOWN THE RUNWAY... IT'S WHEELS LIFT OFF THE EARTH AS THE TORCH RACES FORWARD —
THEY'RE OFF THE GROUND — I CAN'T MAKE IT! —
BUT THERE'S ONE CHANCE THAT MIGHT BRING 'EM DOWN! I HOPE IT WORKS..
WINDING UP HIS ARM, THE TORCH LETS LOOSE A BALL OF FIRE THAT SAILS FAR AHEAD OF THE PLANE... WHIRLS AND CRASHES INTO THE PROPELLER! —
WHATEVER THAT WAS — IT MELTED OUR PROP! WE'LL HAVE TO LAND! —
IT WORKED!

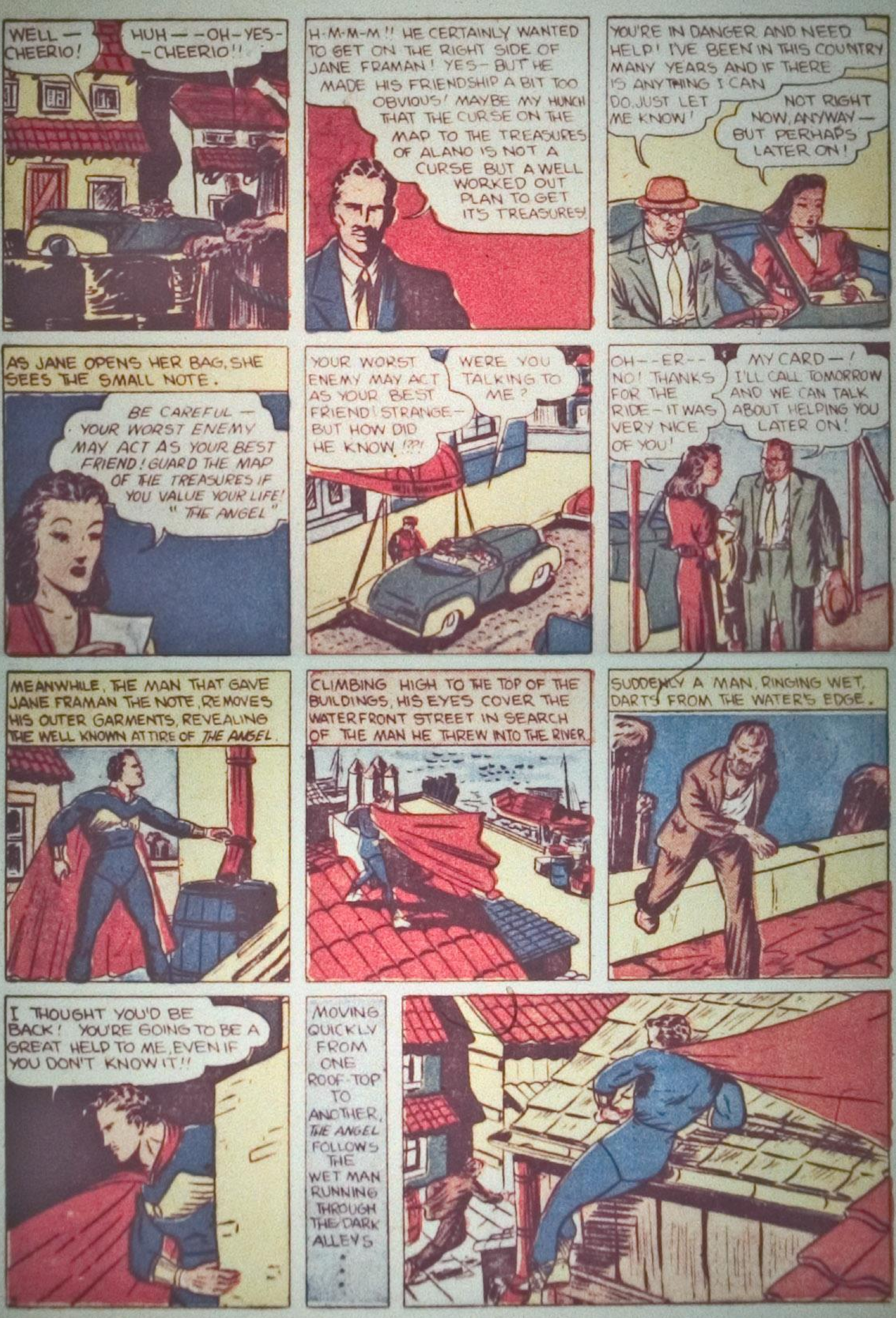

JUMPIN' WINGSPREAD.. HE DONE IT! — THE TORCH!
SCATTER — OR HE'LL GET US!
THE PILOT BRINGS THE SHIP DOWN WITH A DEAD STICK ... AND AS THEY SEEK THE CAUSE OF THE MELTED PROP — THEY SPOT THE TORCH!
AS THE GROUP SPREADS TH' TORCH GRINS AND MOVES HIS HAND IN A CIRCLE — INSTANTLY, FLAMES SURROUND THE FUGITIVES!
WE'RE TRAPPED!!
HMM — I SEE BLACKIE ISN'T HERE! — WHERE IS HE?
STILL GRINNING THE TORCH MAKES FOR THE FLAMING CIRCLE WHICH PARTS AS HE NEARS —
WHY DON'T YOU GO BURN A HOLE IN TH' GROUND!?
THE PILOT ANSWERS
BECAUSE I FIND IT MORE CONVENIENT TO BURN A HOLE ON YOUR JAW — RAT! —
OUCH! — MY JAW — IT'S BURNED... I CAN'T FEEL IT! —
AT THAT MOMENT, BLACKIE'S CAR COMES SPEEDING ON THE FIELD!
— I WONDER WHAT THOSE FLAMES ARE DOING ROUND MY PLANE?
LOOK! — — IT'S THE TORCH!
AH! — THAT MUST BE BLACKIE!
— THIS TIME IT'S EITHER ME OR THE TORCH!
YEAH? — WELL DON'T COUNT ME IN, BLACKIE, — I'M GETTING OUT!
OH! — SO YOU WANT TO PLAY, EH?
BLACKIE SHOVES HIS FOOT DOWN, FULL ON THE GAS — AND MAKES STRAIGHT FOR THE TORCH, WHO LEAPS — JUST AS THE CAR IS ALMOST ON TOP OF HIM!
HAH! MISSED AGAIN BLACKIE!

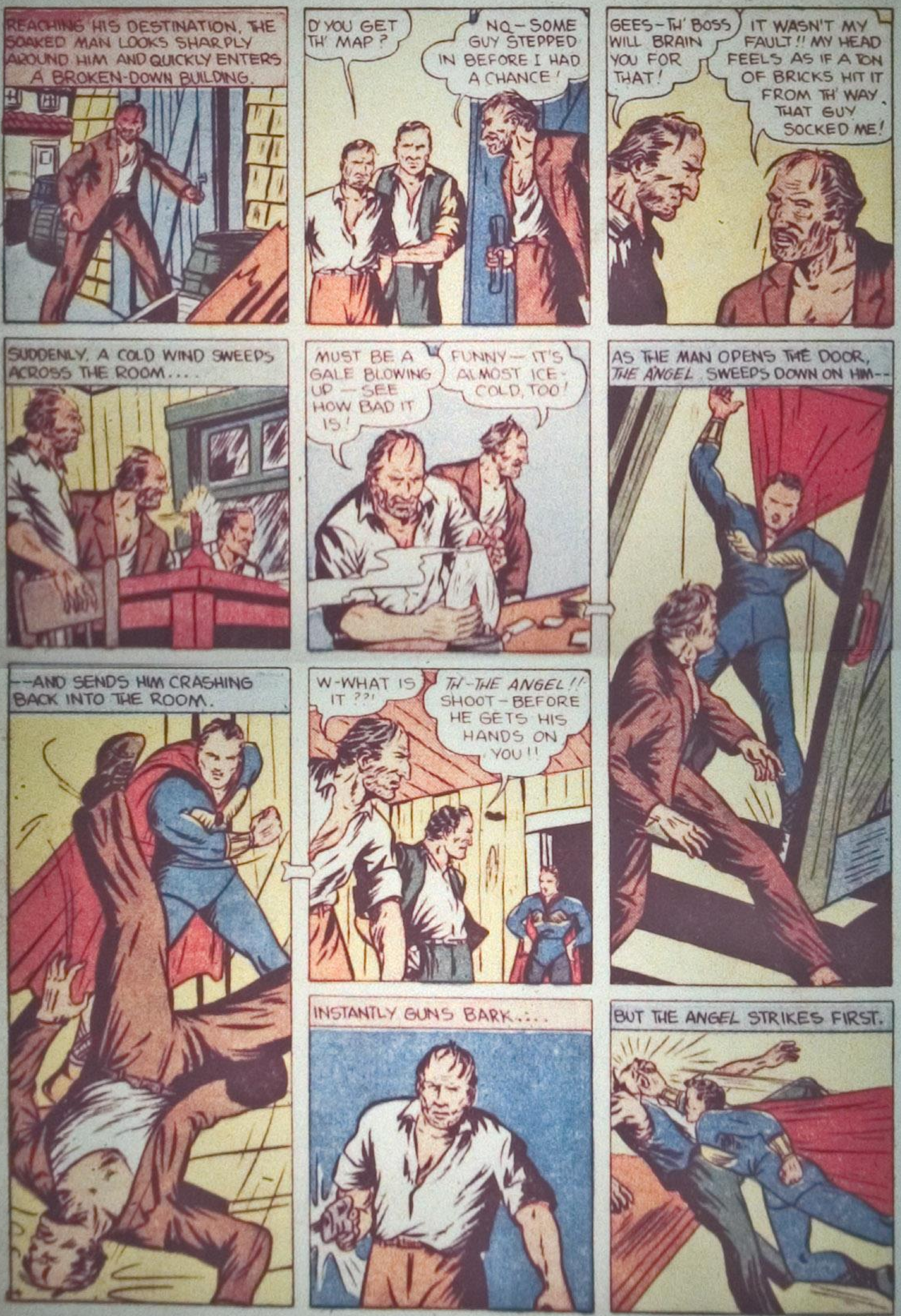

NOW, IT'S MY TURN TO HAVE SOME FUN!
WITH LIGHTNING SPEED, THE TORCH DODGES BLACKIE'S CAR, AND AT THE SAME TIME RIPS OFF THE HOOD —
WHAT THE?!
AND THIS IS ONLY A SAMPLE, YOU MURDERING DOG!
X-24
LETTING GO OF THE HOOD, THE TORCH POINTS HIS FINGER AT THE TIRE... IT BLOWS UP WITH A BANG!
THE FLAT SENDS THE CAR ROLLING IN CIRCLES!
WHAT A BREAK! IT'S LANDING IN AN UPRIGHT POSITION! —
OKAY TORCH! IT'S MY TURN, NOW!
THE CAR SPITS AND COUGHS AS BLACKIE HEADS IT STRAIGHT AT THE TORCH! —
X24
AS BLACKIE NEARS THE TORCH, THE LATTER BURNS A DEEP DITCH ACROSS THE FIELD... BLACKIE, UNABLE TO STOP OR TURN, GOES, SAILING THRU THE AIR!
— AND LANDS WITH A SICKENING THUD! —

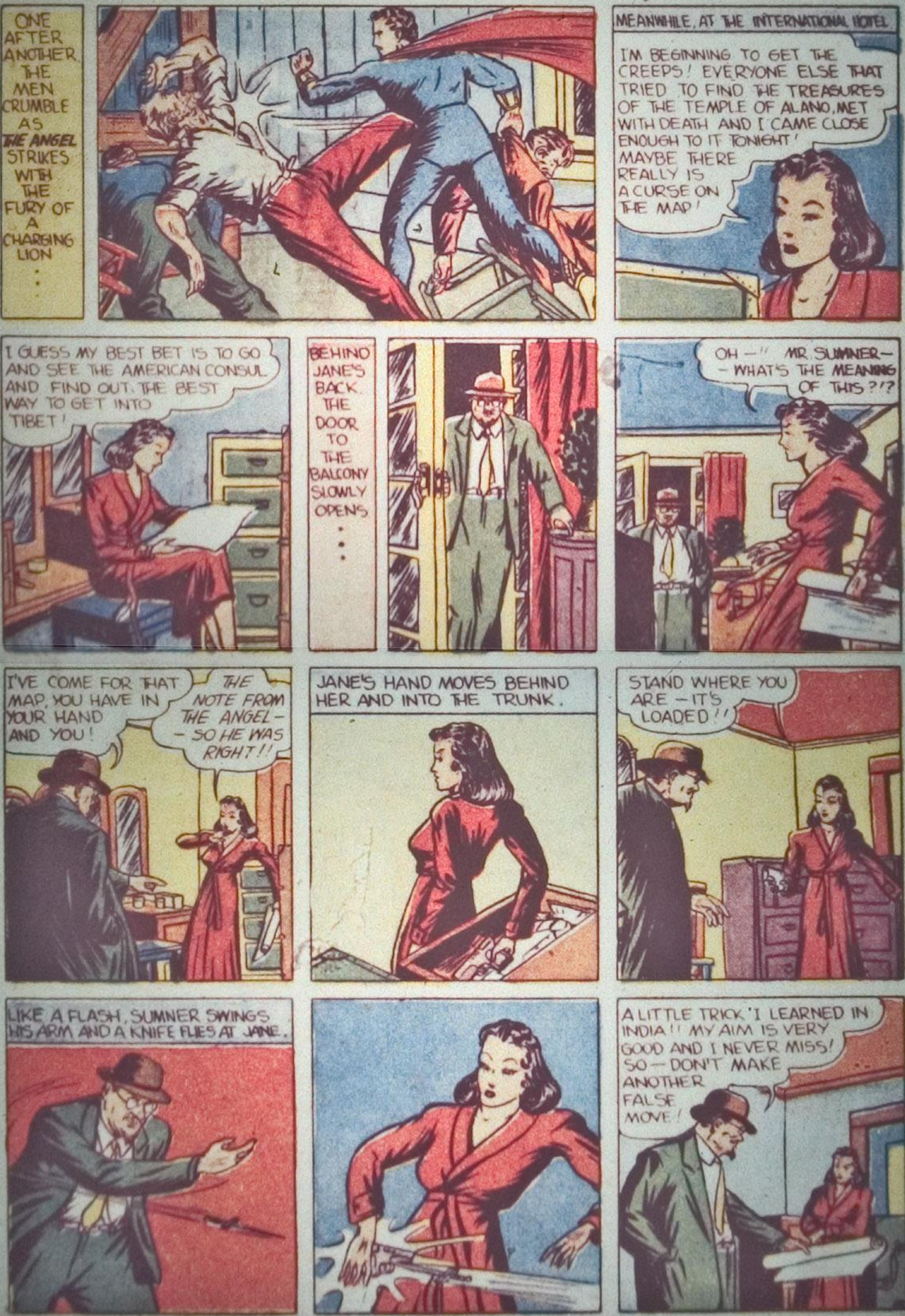

SECONDS LATER THE GAS TANK EXPLODES AND THE CAR IS TURNED INTO A MASS OF FLAMES!—
HELP!—I'M PINNED AGAINST THE WHEEL! -I CAN'T MOVE! I'M BURNING!—
WHILE INSIDE THE CAR!!
IF I HELP YOU, WILL YOU SIGN A COMPLETE CONFESSION FOR THE RACE TRACK MURDERS?
YES— -I'LL DO ANYTHING
STOP YELLING, FOOL!— DON'T YOU KNOW YOU'RE STILL WEARING AN ASBESTOS SUIT?
HUH?
THEN THE TORCH ENTERS THE CAR AND BURNS AWAY THE WHEEL, WHICH PINNED BLACKIE...
LATER
I FORGOT ALL ABOUT THE ASBESTOS— ANYWAY, HERE'S THE CONFESSION.. -YOU'LL FIND IT COMPLETE.
AS POLICE SIRENS SCREECH, THE TORCH PUTS HIS OWN FLAME OUT AND TAKES THE CONFESSION FROM BLACKIE ROSS!—
ARE YOU OK, TORCH? -I GOTTA SURPRISE FOR YOU!
AH, IT'S JOHNSON- AND I SEE HE IS IN THE COMPANY OF THE POLICE COMMISIONER.. THAT CERTAINLY IS A SURPRISE..
-AND SO HERE'S BLACKIE'S OWN CONFESSION...
MMM— LET ME SEE IT...
THE TORCH EXPLAINS ALL TO THE POLICE COMMISIONER..
YES, IT'S IN PERFECT ORDER... I'M SORRY WE THOUGHT YOU A MURDERER, TORCH... HUH?
I DON'T KNOW— HE WAS HERE JUST A MOMENT AGO.. LOOK, THERE! THERE!
ALL THAT THEY SAW WAS A PAIR OF FOOT PRINTS, BURNED IN THE GROUND...
NEXT MONTH ANOTHER HUMAN TORCH PICTURE-ACTION STORY!

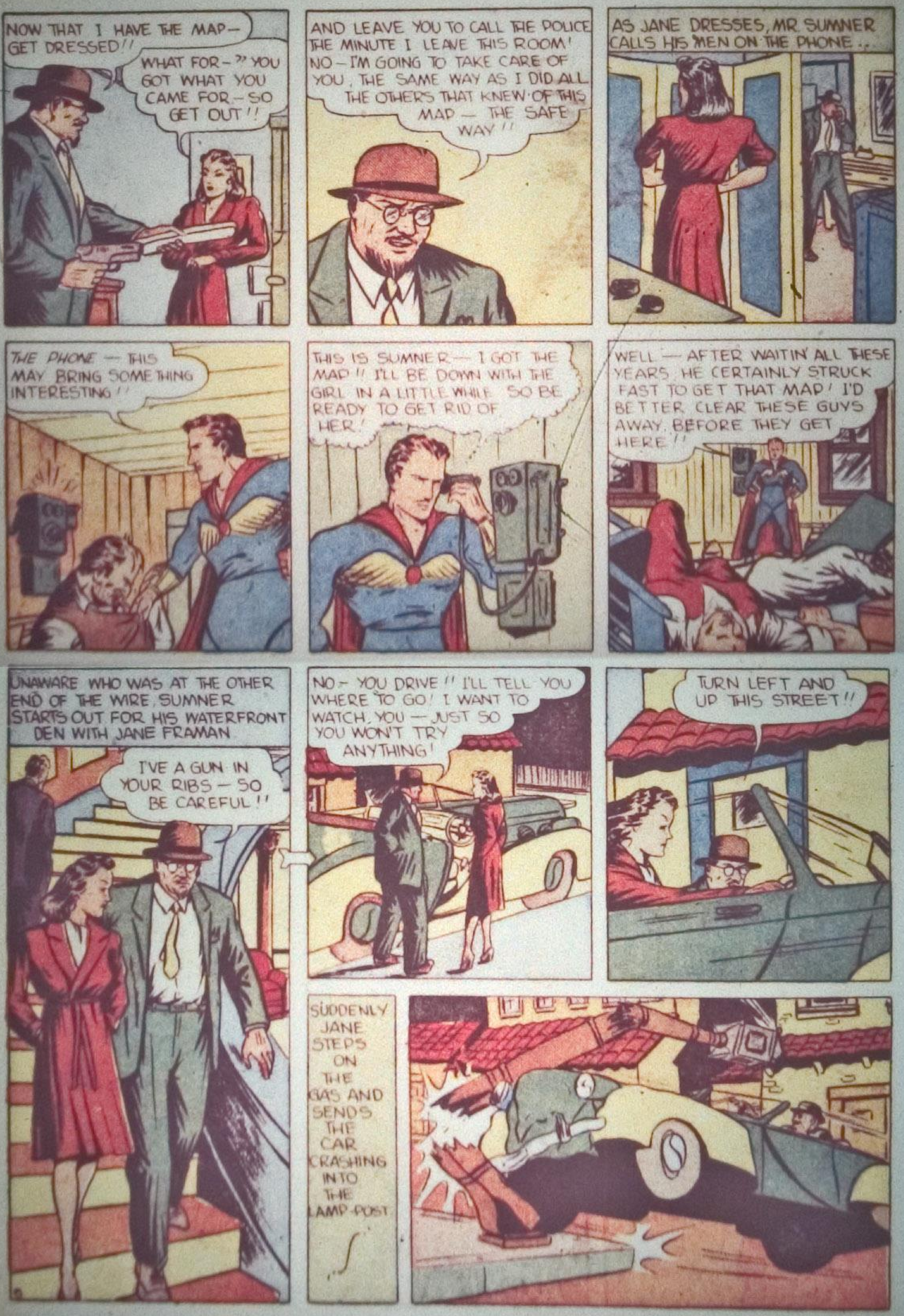

The ANGEL
Paul Gustavson
THE MYSTERIOUS ENCHANTMENT OF THE CHINA SEA IS BROKEN BY THE LOW MOAN OF THE FOG-HORN ON THE S.S. OREGON AS SHE DOCKS AT HONGKONG....
ONE PASSENGER, JANE FRAMAN, STANDS WISTFULLY WATCHING THE DARK, UNKNOWN CITY...
REPORT FULLY ON THE LOST TEMPLE OF ALANO FOR THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE' — THAT'S AN AWFUL BIG ORDER! WELL, HONGKONG — I HAVE ORDERS TO START FROM HERE, SO HERE I AM!
AS JANE TURNS TOWARD THE WHARF, SHE SEES A 'GRUELY' LOOKING PERSON STARING DIRECTLY AT HER — AND A COLD CHILL RUNS DOWN HER SPINE.
THE MOMENT THE GANG-PLANK IS LOWERED, HE SCRAMBLES INTO THE DARKNESS BETWEEN THE BUILDINGS.
LOOKS LIKE MY ADMIRER HAS DECIDED TO LEAVE — — THANK GOODNESS!
WILL YOU SEND MY BAGGAGE TO THE INTERNATIONAL HOTEL! STEP ON IT, BOY — I'M DOG TIRED!
DON'T LET THEM OUT OF YOUR SIGHT OR I'LL THROW YOU IN THE RIVER.
AS THE RICKSHAW JANE FRAMAN IS IN PASSES ONE OF THE DARK ALLEYS, THE 'GRUELY' STRANGER WHO WAS ON THE DOCK, JUMPS AT HER!

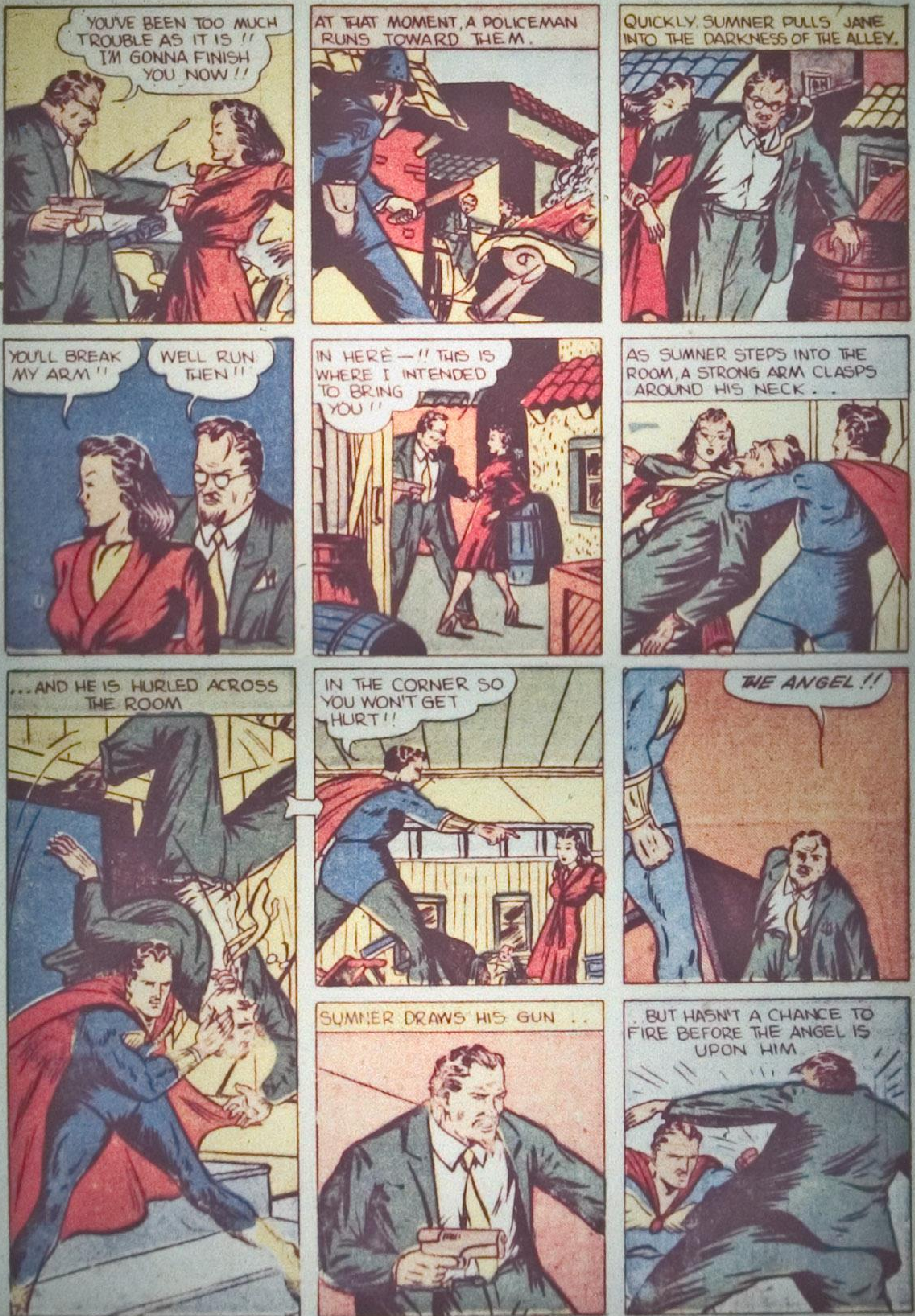

THEY'VE STRUCK ALREADY! HURRY, YOU FOOL -- HE'S PULLING A KNIFE ON HER!
AT THE SAME MOMENT, A HEAVY CAR TURNS TO THE ATTACKED GIRL.
THE GLITTERING KNIFE STRIKES DOWNWARD . . .
BUT JANE'S FOLLOWER IS UPON HER ATTACKER BEFORE THE POINT OF THE BLADE STRIKES HER
WITH CRASHING BLOWS, THE MYSTERIOUS FOLLOWER SENDS HIM SPRAWLING ACROSS THE STREET AND DOWN INTO THE WATER!
HELP ME PUT HER IN MY CAR!
I'M ALL RIGHT EXCEPT THAT I'M ALL SHAKY INSIDE!
WELL— YOUR FACE IS FAMILIAR- -- EVEN BEHIND THAT DISGUISE!
I CERTAINLY WANT TO THANK YOU FOR SAVING MY LIFE!
YES - YOU CERTAINLY CAME AT THE RIGHT TIME!
NOTHING AT ALL! ANYTHING ELSE I CAN DO FOR YOU??
I'LL TAKE HER WHEREVER SHE WANTS TO GO!
THAT ISN'T NECESSARY— I'M ONLY GOING TO THE HOTEL, UP THE STREET!!
BUT I INSIST!! YOU'RE IN NO CONDITION TO WALK ALONE AT THIS HOUR!
AS THE HEAVY MAN HELPS JANE INTO HIS CAR, THE OTHER WRITES SOMETHING ON A PIECE OF PAPER . . . . .
AND PUTS IT IN JANE'S BAG AS HE PICKS IT OFF THE STREET.
I HOPE SHE FINDS MY NOTE BEFORE SHE REVEALS ANYTHING!

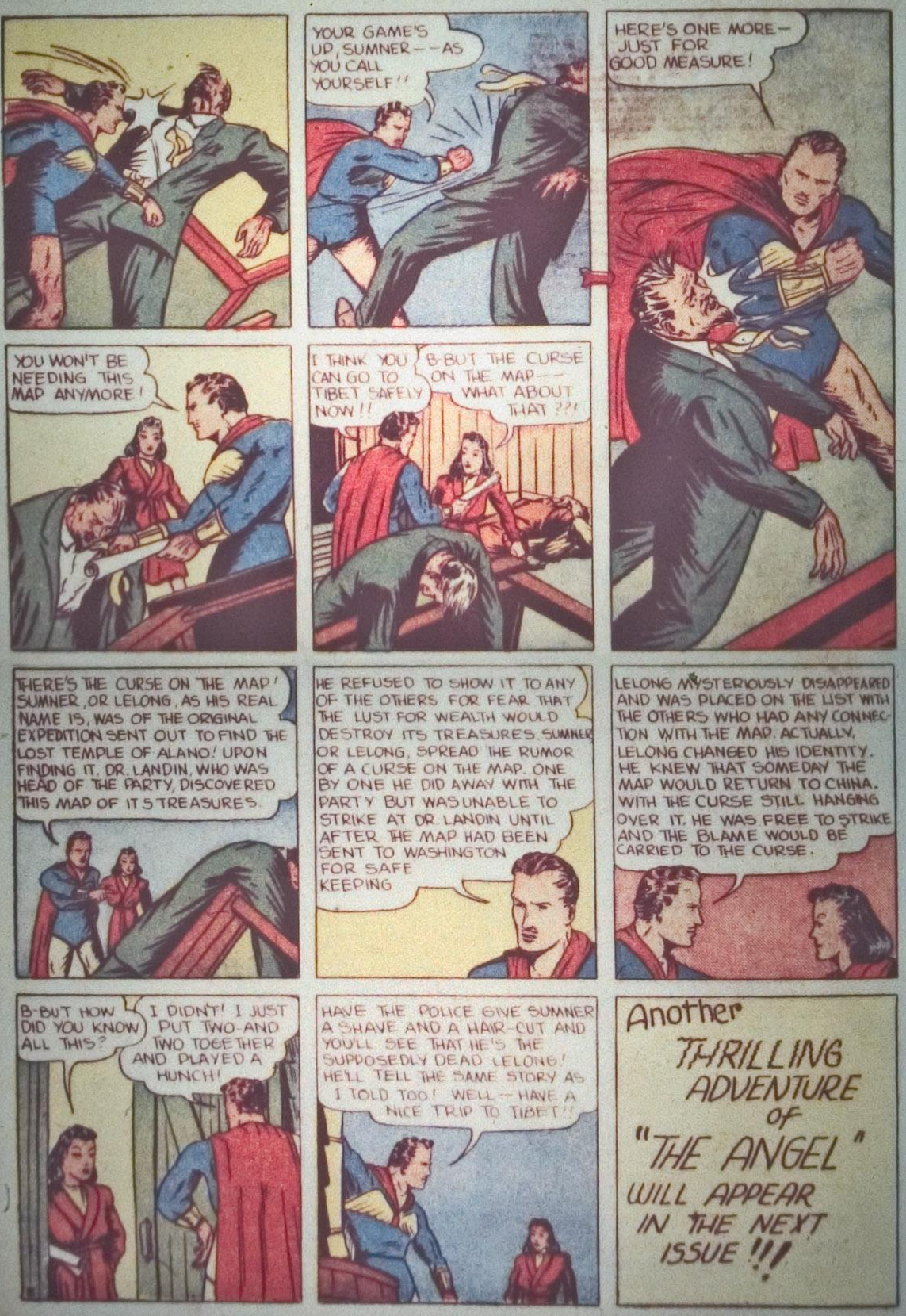

WELL — CHEERIO!
HUH — —OH—YES— —CHEERIO!!
H-M-M-M!! HE CERTAINLY WANTED TO GET ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF JANE FRAMAN! YES— BUT HE MADE HIS FRIENDSHIP A BIT TOO OBVIOUS! MAYBE MY HUNCH THAT THE CURSE ON THE MAP TO THE TREASURES OF ALANO IS NOT A CURSE BUT A WELL WORKED OUT PLAN TO GET IT'S TREASURES!
YOU'RE IN DANGER AND NEED HELP! I'VE BEEN IN THIS COUNTRY MANY YEARS AND IF THERE IS ANYTHING I CAN DO, JUST LET ME KNOW!
NOT RIGHT NOW, ANYWAY— BUT PERHAPS LATER ON!
AS JANE OPENS HER BAG, SHE SEES THE SMALL NOTE.
BE CAREFUL — YOUR WORST ENEMY MAY ACT AS YOUR BEST FRIEND! GUARD THE MAP OF THE TREASURES IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE! "THE ANGEL"
YOUR WORST ENEMY MAY ACT AS YOUR BEST FRIEND! STRANGE— BUT HOW DID HE KNOW !?!
WERE YOU TALKING TO ME?
OH— —ER— — NO! THANKS FOR THE RIDE— IT WAS VERY NICE OF YOU!
MY CARD—! I'LL CALL TOMORROW AND WE CAN TALK ABOUT HELPING YOU LATER ON!
MEANWHILE, THE MAN THAT GAVE JANE FRAMAN THE NOTE, REMOVES HIS OUTER GARMENTS, REVEALING THE WELL KNOWN ATTIRE OF THE ANGEL.
CLIMBING HIGH TO THE TOP OF THE BUILDINGS, HIS EYES COVER THE WATERFRONT STREET IN SEARCH OF THE MAN HE THREW INTO THE RIVER.
SUDDENLY A MAN, RINGING WET, DARTS FROM THE WATER'S EDGE.
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE BACK! YOU'RE GOING TO BE A GREAT HELP TO ME, EVEN IF YOU DON'T KNOW IT!!
MOVING QUICKLY FROM ONE ROOF-TOP TO ANOTHER, THE ANGEL FOLLOWS THE WET MAN RUNNING THROUGH THE DARK ALLEYS . . .

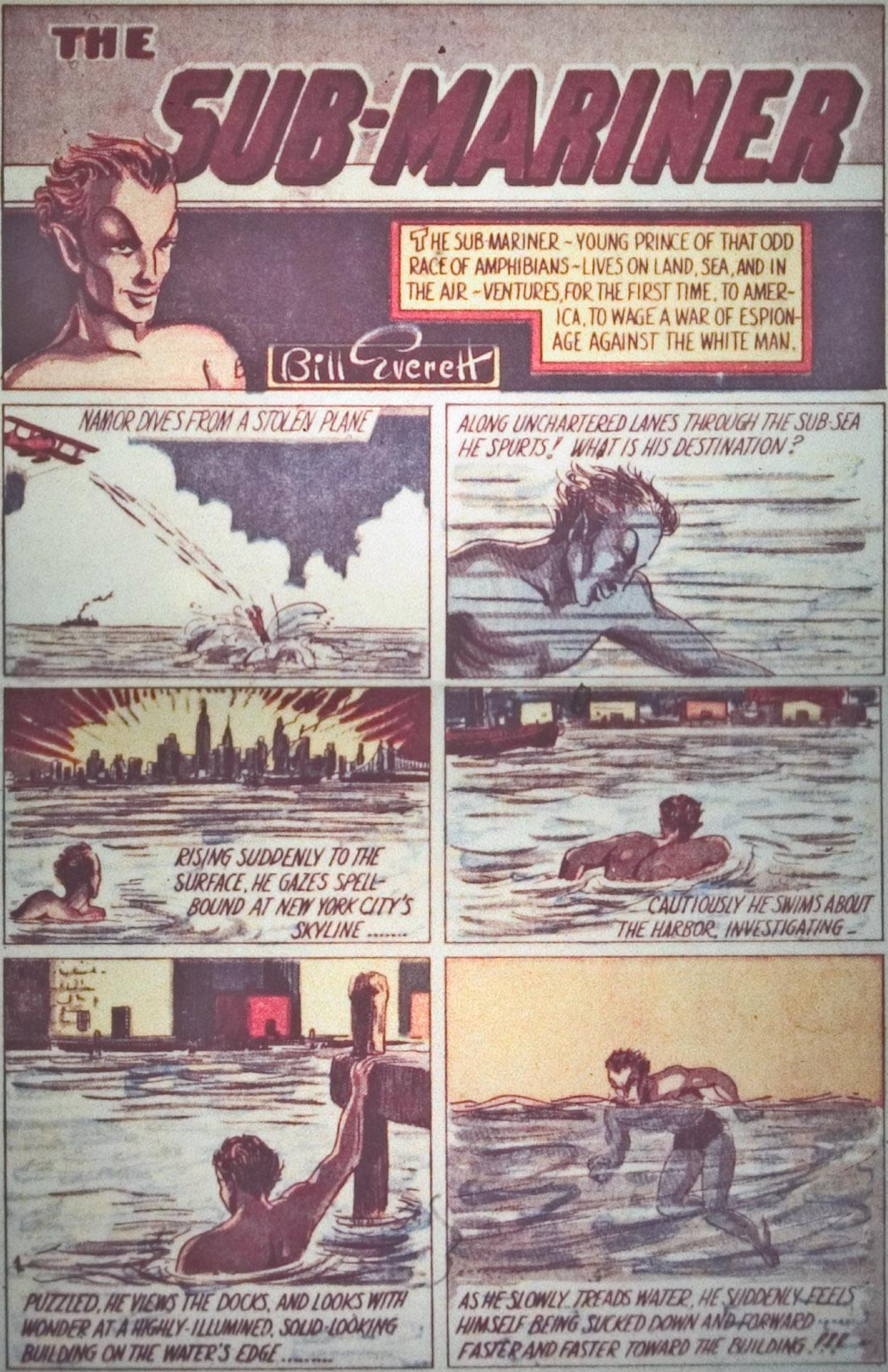

REACHING HIS DESTINATION, THE SOAKED MAN LOOKS SHARPLY AROUND HIM AND QUICKLY ENTERS A BROKEN-DOWN BUILDING.
D'YOU GET TH' MAP?
NO—SOME GUY STEPPED IN BEFORE I HAD A CHANCE!
GEES—TH' BOSS WILL BRAIN YOU FOR THAT!
IT WASN'T MY FAULT!! MY HEAD FEELS AS IF A TON OF BRICKS HIT IT FROM TH' WAY THAT GUY SOCKED ME!
SUDDENLY, A COLD WIND SWEEPS ACROSS THE ROOM....
MUST BE A GALE BLOWING UP—SEE HOW BAD IT IS!
FUNNY—IT'S ALMOST ICE-COLD, TOO!
AS THE MAN OPENS THE DOOR, *THE ANGEL* SWEEPS DOWN ON HIM—
—AND SENDS HIM CRASHING BACK INTO THE ROOM.
W-WHAT IS IT ??!
TH-THE ANGEL!! SHOOT—BEFORE HE GETS HIS HANDS ON YOU!!
INSTANTLY GUNS BARK.....
BUT THE ANGEL STRIKES FIRST.

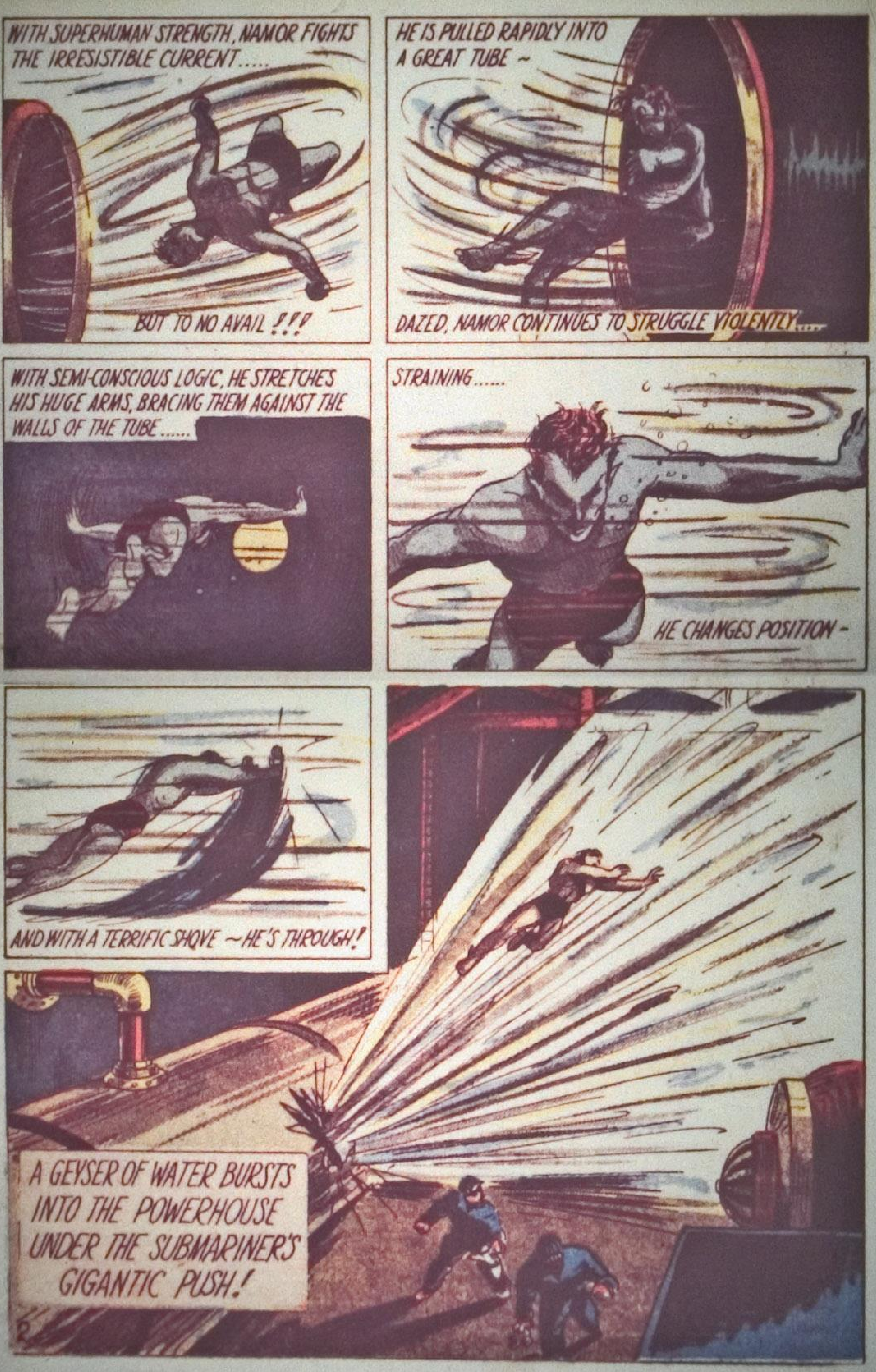

ONE AFTER ANOTHER THE MEN CRUMBLE AS *THE ANGEL* STRIKES WITH THE FURY OF A CHARGING LION . . .
MEANWHILE, AT THE INTERNATIONAL HOTEL
I'M BEGINNING TO GET THE CREEPS! EVERYONE ELSE THAT TRIED TO FIND THE TREASURES OF THE TEMPLE OF ALANO, MET WITH DEATH AND I CAME CLOSE ENOUGH TO IT TONIGHT! MAYBE THERE REALLY IS A CURSE ON THE MAP!
I GUESS MY BEST BET IS TO GO AND SEE THE AMERICAN CONSUL AND FIND OUT THE BEST WAY TO GET INTO TIBET!
BEHIND JANE'S BACK, THE DOOR TO THE BALCONY SLOWLY OPENS . . .
OH—" MR. SUMNER— —WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?!?
I'VE COME FOR THAT MAP, YOU HAVE IN YOUR HAND AND YOU!
THE NOTE FROM THE ANGEL— —SO HE WAS RIGHT!!
JANE'S HAND MOVES BEHIND HER AND INTO THE TRUNK.
STAND WHERE YOU ARE—IT'S LOADED!!
LIKE A FLASH, SUMNER SWINGS HIS ARM AND A KNIFE FLIES AT JANE.
A LITTLE TRICK I LEARNED IN INDIA!! MY AIM IS VERY GOOD AND I NEVER MISS! SO—DON'T MAKE ANOTHER FALSE MOVE!

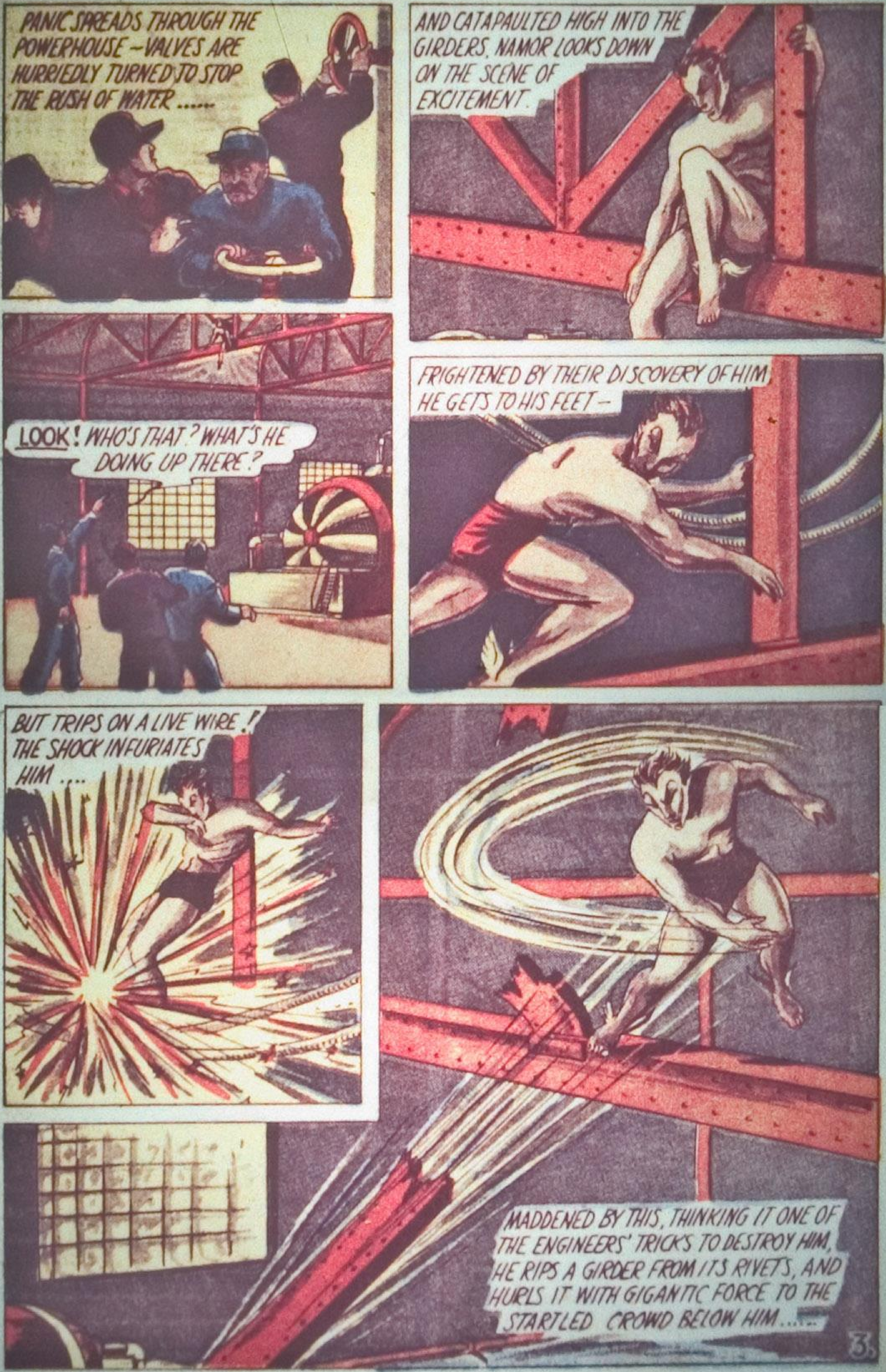

NOW THAT I HAVE THE MAP— GET DRESSED!!
WHAT FOR—" YOU GOT WHAT YOU CAME FOR—SO GET OUT!!
AND LEAVE YOU TO CALL THE POLICE THE MINUTE I LEAVE THIS ROOM! NO—I'M GOING TO TAKE CARE OF YOU, THE SAME WAY AS I DID ALL THE OTHERS THAT KNEW OF THIS MAP — THE SAFE WAY!!
AS JANE DRESSES, MR. SUMNER CALLS HIS MEN ON THE PHONE..
THE PHONE — THIS MAY BRING SOMETHING INTERESTING!!
THIS IS SUMNER — I GOT THE MAP!! I'LL BE DOWN WITH THE GIRL IN A LITTLE WHILE SO BE READY TO GET RID OF HER!
WELL — AFTER WAITIN' ALL THESE YEARS HE CERTAINLY STRUCK FAST TO GET THAT MAP! I'D BETTER CLEAR THESE GUYS AWAY BEFORE THEY GET HERE!!
UNAWARE WHO WAS AT THE OTHER END OF THE WIRE, SUMNER STARTS OUT FOR HIS WATERFRONT DEN WITH JANE FRAMAN
I'VE A GUN IN YOUR RIBS — SO BE CAREFUL!!
NO — YOU DRIVE!! I'LL TELL YOU WHERE TO GO! I WANT TO WATCH YOU — JUST SO YOU WON'T TRY ANYTHING!
TURN LEFT AND UP THIS STREET!!
SUDDENLY JANE STEPS ON THE GAS AND SENDS THE CAR CRASHING INTO THE LAMP-POST

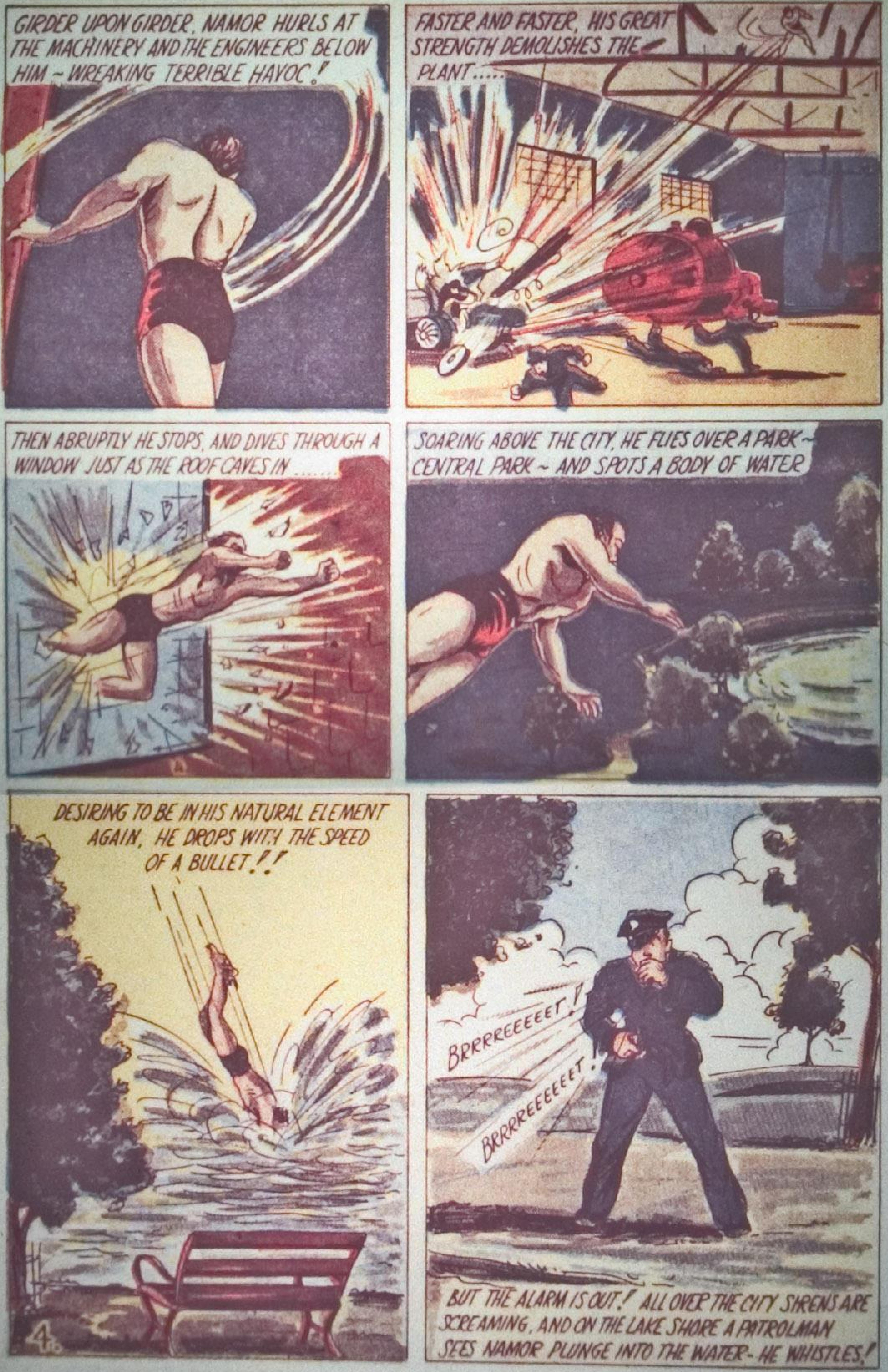

YOU'VE BEEN TOO MUCH TROUBLE AS IT IS !! I'M GONNA FINISH YOU NOW !!
AT THAT MOMENT, A POLICEMAN RUNS TOWARD THEM.
QUICKLY, SUMNER PULLS JANE INTO THE DARKNESS OF THE ALLEY.
YOU'LL BREAK MY ARM !!
WELL RUN THEN !!
IN HERE—!! THIS IS WHERE I INTENDED TO BRING YOU !!
AS SUMNER STEPS INTO THE ROOM, A STRONG ARM CLASPS AROUND HIS NECK . .
. . . AND HE IS HURLED ACROSS THE ROOM
IN THE CORNER SO YOU WON'T GET HURT !!
THE ANGEL !!
SUMNER DRAWS HIS GUN . .
. BUT HASN'T A CHANCE TO FIRE BEFORE THE ANGEL IS UPON HIM

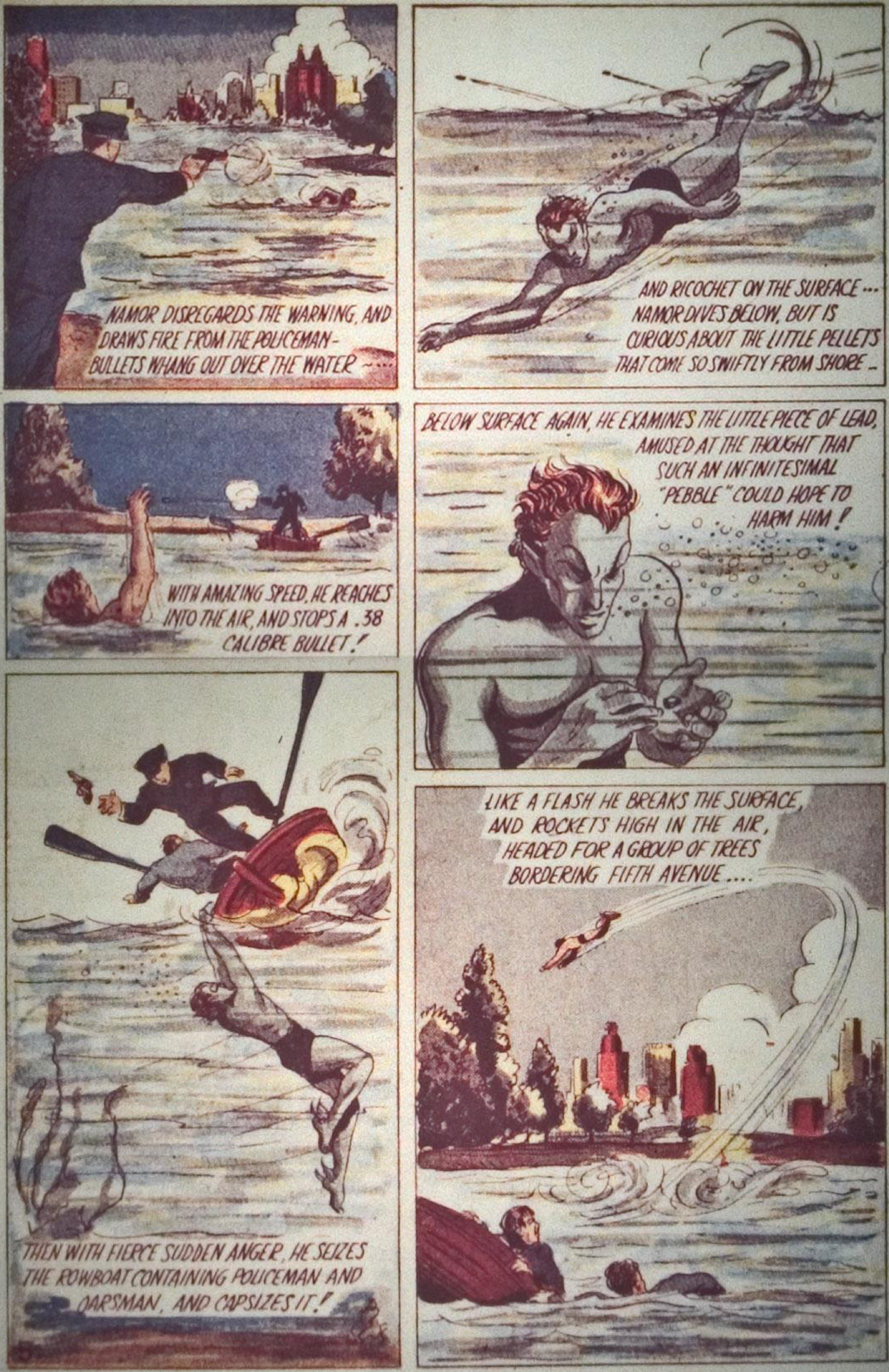

YOUR GAME'S UP, SUMNER--AS YOU CALL YOURSELF!!
HERE'S ONE MORE-JUST FOR GOOD MEASURE!
YOU WON'T BE NEEDING THIS MAP ANYMORE!
I THINK YOU CAN GO TO TIBET SAFELY NOW!!
B-BUT THE CURSE ON THE MAP--WHAT ABOUT THAT??!
THERE'S THE CURSE ON THE MAP! SUMNER, OR LELONG, AS HIS REAL NAME IS, WAS OF THE ORIGINAL EXPEDITION SENT OUT TO FIND THE LOST TEMPLE OF ALANO! UPON FINDING IT, DR. LANDIN, WHO WAS HEAD OF THE PARTY, DISCOVERED THIS MAP OF ITS TREASURES.
HE REFUSED TO SHOW IT TO ANY OF THE OTHERS FOR FEAR THAT THE LUST FOR WEALTH WOULD DESTROY ITS TREASURES. SUMNER OR LELONG, SPREAD THE RUMOR OF A CURSE ON THE MAP. ONE BY ONE HE DID AWAY WITH THE PARTY BUT WAS UNABLE TO STRIKE AT DR. LANDIN UNTIL AFTER THE MAP HAD BEEN SENT TO WASHINGTON FOR SAFE KEEPING
LELONG MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED AND WAS PLACED ON THE LIST WITH THE OTHERS WHO HAD ANY CONNECTION WITH THE MAP. ACTUALLY, LELONG CHANGED HIS IDENTITY. HE KNEW THAT SOMEDAY THE MAP WOULD RETURN TO CHINA. WITH THE CURSE STILL HANGING OVER IT, HE WAS FREE TO STRIKE AND THE BLAME WOULD BE CARRIED TO THE CURSE.
B-BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW ALL THIS?
I DIDN'T! I JUST PUT TWO-AND TWO TOGETHER AND PLAYED A HUNCH!
HAVE THE POLICE GIVE SUMNER A SHAVE AND A HAIR-CUT AND YOU'LL SEE THAT HE'S THE SUPPOSEDLY DEAD LELONG! HE'LL TELL THE SAME STORY AS I TOLD TOO! WELL--HAVE A NICE TRIP TO TIBET!!
Another THRILLING ADVENTURE of "THE ANGEL" WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT ISSUE!!!

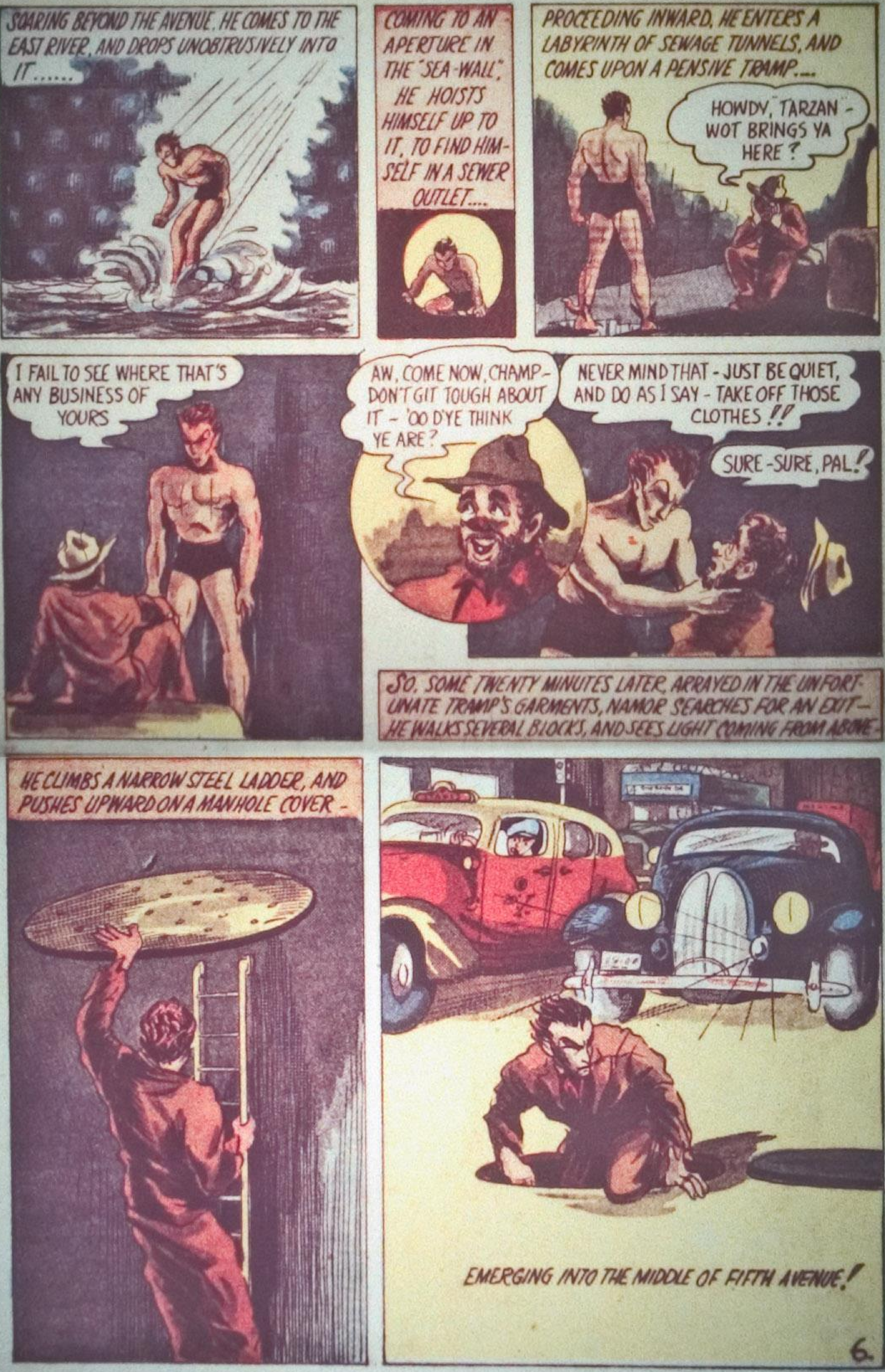

THE SUB-MARINER
THE SUB-MARINER – YOUNG PRINCE OF THAT ODD RACE OF AMPHIBIANS – LIVES ON LAND, SEA, AND IN THE AIR – VENTURES, FOR THE FIRST TIME, TO AMERICA, TO WAGE A WAR OF ESPIONAGE AGAINST THE WHITE MAN.
Bill Everett
NAMOR DIVES FROM A STOLEN PLANE
ALONG UNCHARTERED LANES THROUGH THE SUB-SEA HE SPURTS! WHAT IS HIS DESTINATION?
RISING SUDDENLY TO THE SURFACE, HE GAZES SPELL-BOUND AT NEW YORK CITY'S SKYLINE ....
CAUTIOUSLY HE SWIMS ABOUT THE HARBOR, INVESTIGATING –
PUZZLED, HE VIEWS THE DOCKS, AND LOOKS WITH WONDER AT A HIGHLY-ILLUMINED, SOLID-LOOKING BUILDING ON THE WATER'S EDGE ....
AS HE SLOWLY TREADS WATER, HE SUDDENLY FEELS HIMSELF BEING SUCKED DOWN AND FORWARD..... FASTER AND FASTER TOWARD THE BUILDING !!!!

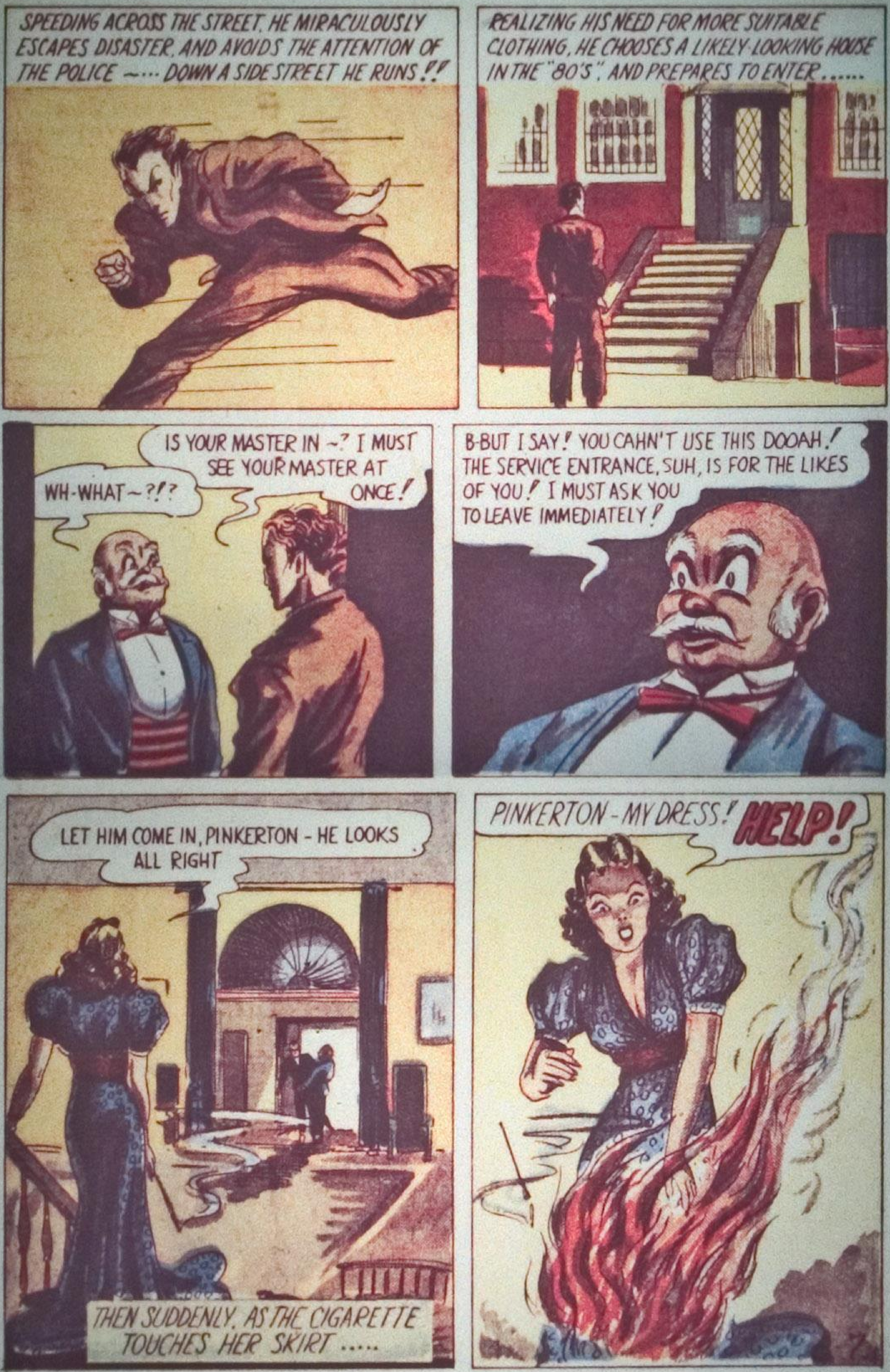

WITH SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH, NAMOR FIGHTS THE IRRESISTIBLE CURRENT.....
BUT TO NO AVAIL !!!
HE IS PULLED RAPIDLY INTO A GREAT TUBE ~
DAZED, NAMOR CONTINUES TO STRUGGLE VIOLENTLY....
WITH SEMI-CONSCIOUS LOGIC, HE STRETCHES HIS HUGE ARMS, BRACING THEM AGAINST THE WALLS OF THE TUBE......
STRAINING......
HE CHANGES POSITION -
AND WITH A TERRIFIC SHOVE ~ HE'S THROUGH!
A GEYSER OF WATER BURSTS INTO THE POWERHOUSE UNDER THE SUBMARINER'S GIGANTIC PUSH!
2

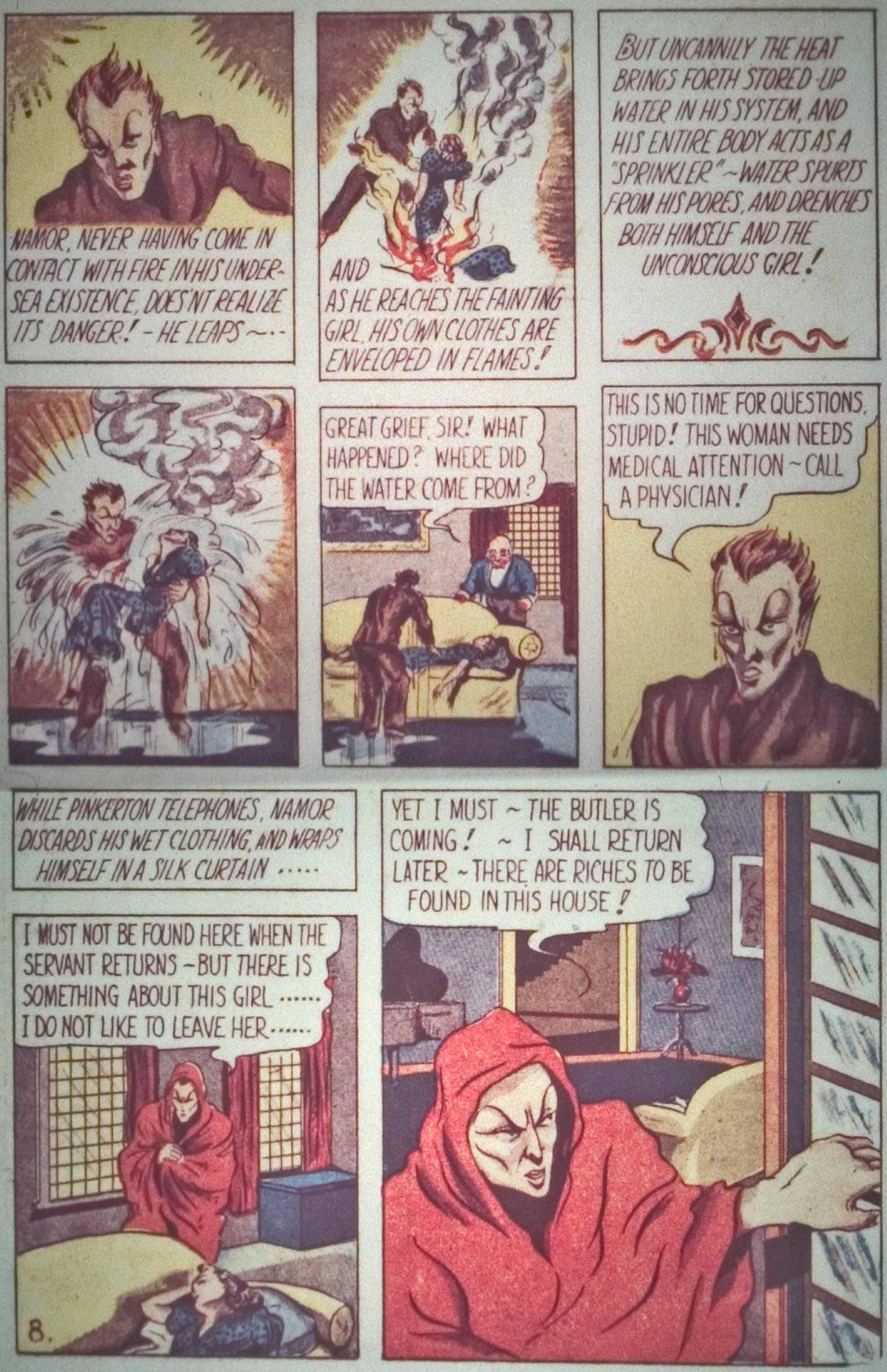

PANIC SPREADS THROUGH THE POWERHOUSE – VALVES ARE HURRIEDLY TURNED TO STOP THE RUSH OF WATER......
AND CATAPAULTED HIGH INTO THE GIRDERS, NAMOR LOOKS DOWN ON THE SCENE OF EXCITEMENT.
LOOK! WHO'S THAT? WHAT'S HE DOING UP THERE?
FRIGHTENED BY THEIR DISCOVERY OF HIM HE GETS TO HIS FEET –
BUT TRIPS ON A LIVE WIRE! THE SHOCK INFURIATES HIM....
MADDENED BY THIS, THINKING IT ONE OF THE ENGINEERS' TRICKS TO DESTROY HIM, HE RIPS A GIRDER FROM ITS RIVETS, AND HURLS IT WITH GIGANTIC FORCE TO THE STARTLED CROWD BELOW HIM.....

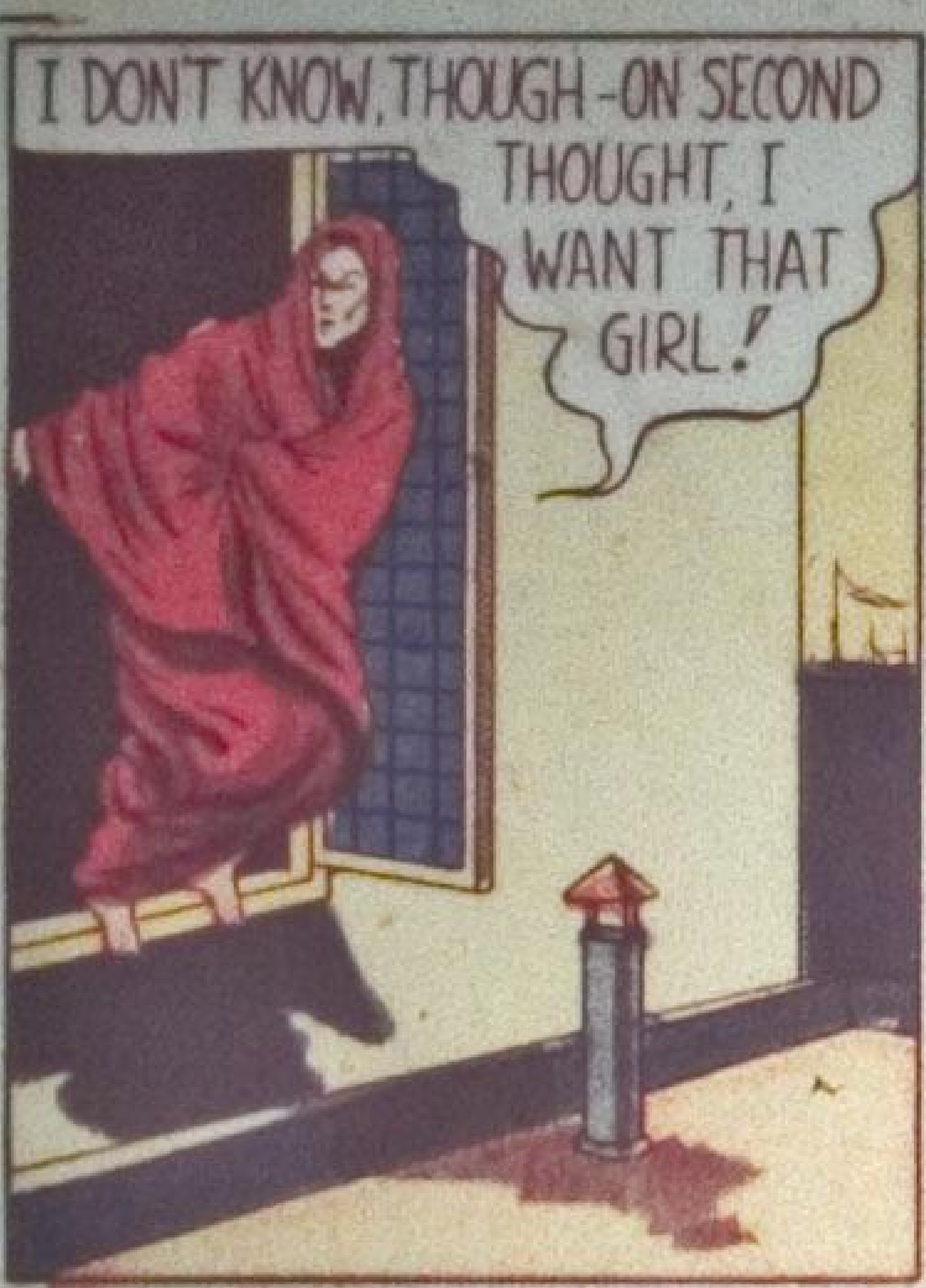

GIRDER UPON GIRDER, NAMOR HURLS AT THE MACHINERY AND THE ENGINEERS BELOW HIM ~ WREAKING TERRIBLE HAVOC!
FASTER AND FASTER, HIS GREAT STRENGTH DEMOLISHES THE PLANT.....
THEN ABRUPTLY HE STOPS, AND DIVES THROUGH A WINDOW JUST AS THE ROOF CAVES IN ....
SOARING ABOVE THE CITY, HE FLIES OVER A PARK ~ CENTRAL PARK ~ AND SPOTS A BODY OF WATER
DESIRING TO BE IN HIS NATURAL ELEMENT AGAIN, HE DROPS WITH THE SPEED OF A BULLET!!
BRRRREEEEET!
BRRRREEEEEET!
BUT THE ALARM IS OUT! ALL OVER THE CITY SIRENS ARE SCREAMING, AND ON THE LAKE SHORE A PATROLMAN SEES NAMOR PLUNGE INTO THE WATER - HE WHISTLES!

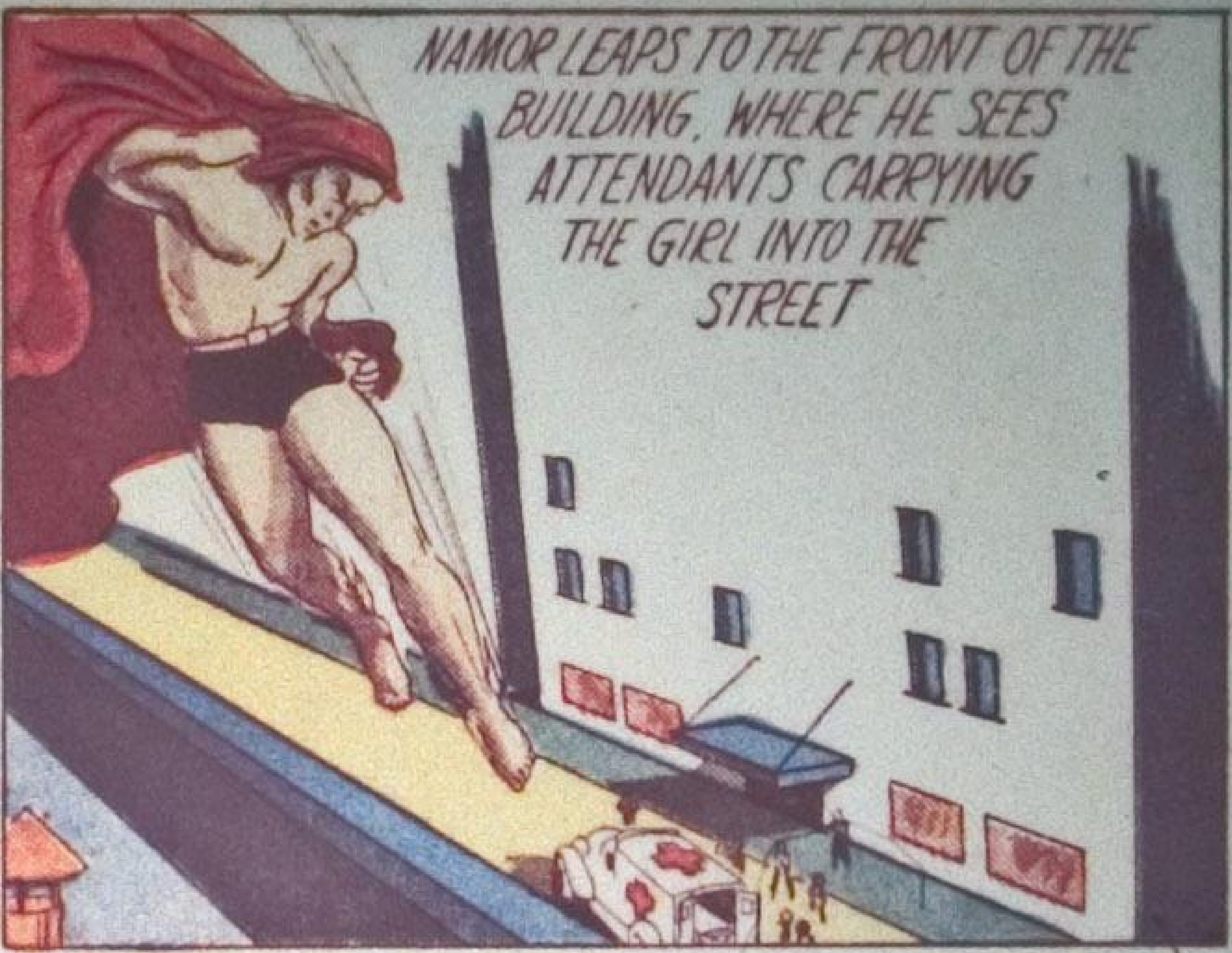

NAMOR DISREGARDS THE WARNING, AND DRAWS FIRE FROM THE POLICEMAN- BULLETS WHANG OUT OVER THE WATER.....
AND RICOCHET ON THE SURFACE... NAMOR DIVES BELOW, BUT IS CURIOUS ABOUT THE LITTLE PELLETS THAT COME SO SWIFTLY FROM SHORE -
WITH AMAZING SPEED, HE REACHES INTO THE AIR, AND STOPS A .38 CALIBRE BULLET!
BELOW SURFACE AGAIN, HE EXAMINES THE LITTLE PIECE OF LEAD, AMUSED AT THE THOUGHT THAT SUCH AN INFINITESIMAL "PEBBLE" COULD HOPE TO HARM HIM!
THEN WITH FIERCE SUDDEN ANGER, HE SEIZES THE ROWBOAT CONTAINING POLICEMAN AND OARSMAN, AND CAPSIZES IT!
LIKE A FLASH HE BREAKS THE SURFACE, AND ROCKETS HIGH IN THE AIR, HEADED FOR A GROUP OF TREES BORDERING FIFTH AVENUE....

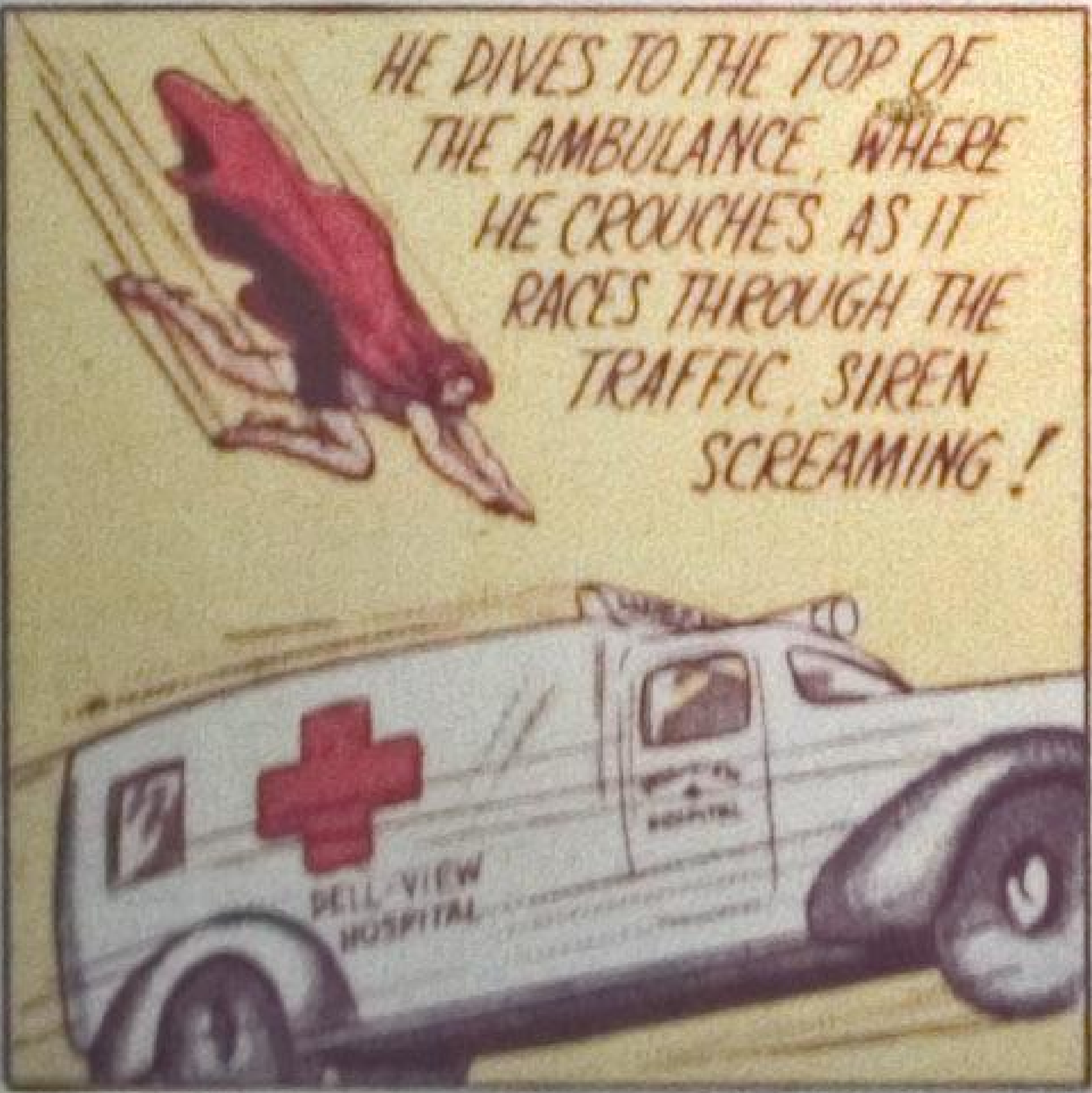

SOARING BEYOND THE AVENUE, HE COMES TO THE EAST RIVER, AND DROPS UNOBTRUSIVELY INTO IT......
COMING TO AN APERTURE IN THE "SEA-WALL", HE HOISTS HIMSELF UP TO IT, TO FIND HIMSELF IN A SEWER OUTLET....
PROCEEDING INWARD, HE ENTERS A LABYRINTH OF SEWAGE TUNNELS, AND COMES UPON A PENSIVE TRAMP....
HOWDY, TARZAN - WOT BRINGS YA HERE?
I FAIL TO SEE WHERE THAT'S ANY BUSINESS OF YOURS
AW, COME NOW, CHAMP - DON'T GIT TOUGH ABOUT IT - 'OO D'YE THINK YE ARE?
NEVER MIND THAT - JUST BE QUIET, AND DO AS I SAY - TAKE OFF THOSE CLOTHES!!
SURE-SURE, PAL!
SO, SOME TWENTY MINUTES LATER, ARRAYED IN THE UNFORTUNATE TRAMP'S GARMENTS, NAMOR SEARCHES FOR AN EXIT - HE WALKS SEVERAL BLOCKS, AND SEES LIGHT COMING FROM ABOVE -
HE CLIMBS A NARROW STEEL LADDER, AND PUSHES UPWARD ON A MANHOLE COVER -
EMERGING INTO THE MIDDLE OF FIFTH AVENUE!

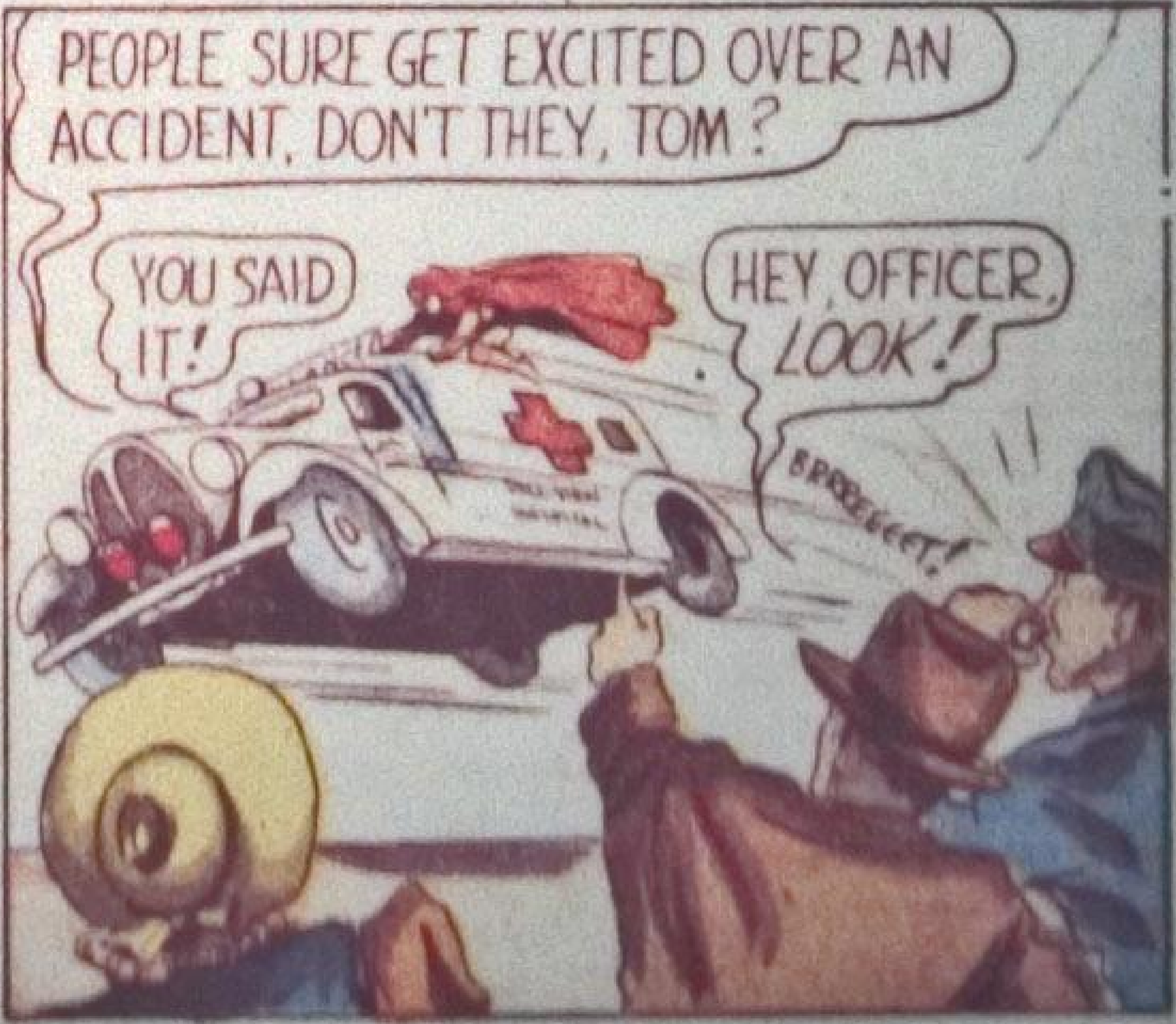

SPEEDING ACROSS THE STREET, HE MIRACULOUSLY ESCAPES DISASTER, AND AVOIDS THE ATTENTION OF THE POLICE ~... DOWN A SIDE STREET HE RUNS!!
REALIZING HIS NEED FOR MORE SUITABLE CLOTHING, HE CHOOSES A LIKELY-LOOKING HOUSE IN THE "80'S", AND PREPARES TO ENTER......
IS YOUR MASTER IN ~? I MUST SEE YOUR MASTER AT ONCE!
WH-WHAT~?!?
B-BUT I SAY! YOU CAHN'T USE THIS DOOAH! THE SERVICE ENTRANCE, SUH, IS FOR THE LIKES OF YOU! I MUST ASK YOU TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY!
LET HIM COME IN, PINKERTON - HE LOOKS ALL RIGHT
THEN SUDDENLY, AS THE CIGARETTE TOUCHES HER SKIRT .....
PINKERTON - MY DRESS! HELP!
7

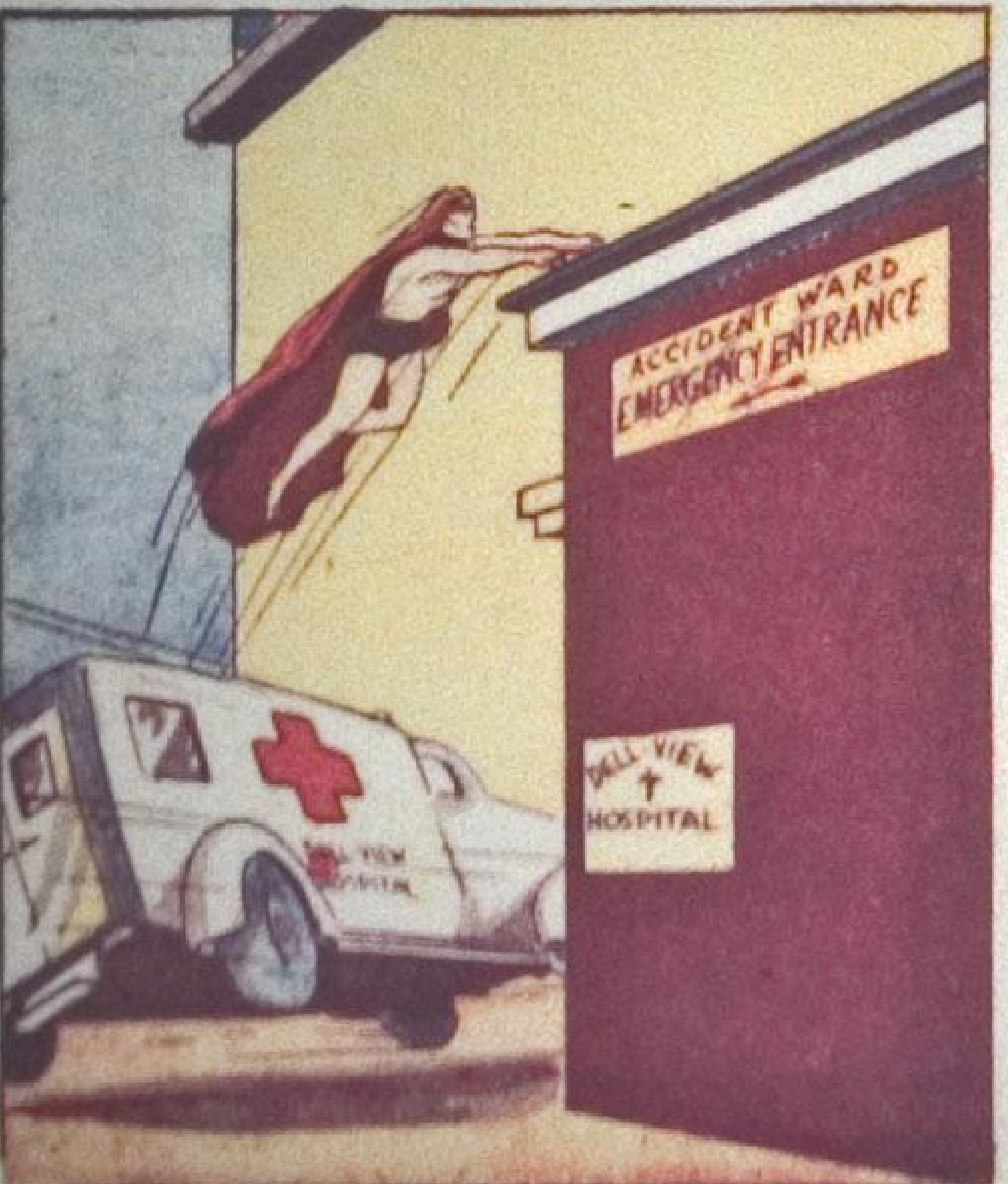

NAMOR, NEVER HAVING COME IN CONTACT WITH FIRE IN HIS UNDER-SEA EXISTENCE, DOES'NT REALIZE ITS DANGER! - HE LEAPS ~..
AND AS HE REACHES THE FAINTING GIRL, HIS OWN CLOTHES ARE ENVELOPED IN FLAMES!
BUT UNCANNILY THE HEAT BRINGS FORTH STORED-UP WATER IN HIS SYSTEM, AND HIS ENTIRE BODY ACTS AS A "SPRINKLER" ~ WATER SPURTS FROM HIS PORES, AND DRENCHES BOTH HIMSELF AND THE UNCONSCIOUS GIRL!
GREAT GRIEF, SIR! WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE DID THE WATER COME FROM?
THIS IS NO TIME FOR QUESTIONS, STUPID! THIS WOMAN NEEDS MEDICAL ATTENTION ~ CALL A PHYSICIAN!
WHILE PINKERTON TELEPHONES, NAMOR DISCARDS HIS WET CLOTHING, AND WRAPS HIMSELF IN A SILK CURTAIN .....
I MUST NOT BE FOUND HERE WHEN THE SERVANT RETURNS ~ BUT THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT THIS GIRL ...... I DO NOT LIKE TO LEAVE HER ......
YET I MUST ~ THE BUTLER IS COMING! ~ I SHALL RETURN LATER ~ THERE ARE RICHES TO BE FOUND IN THIS HOUSE!

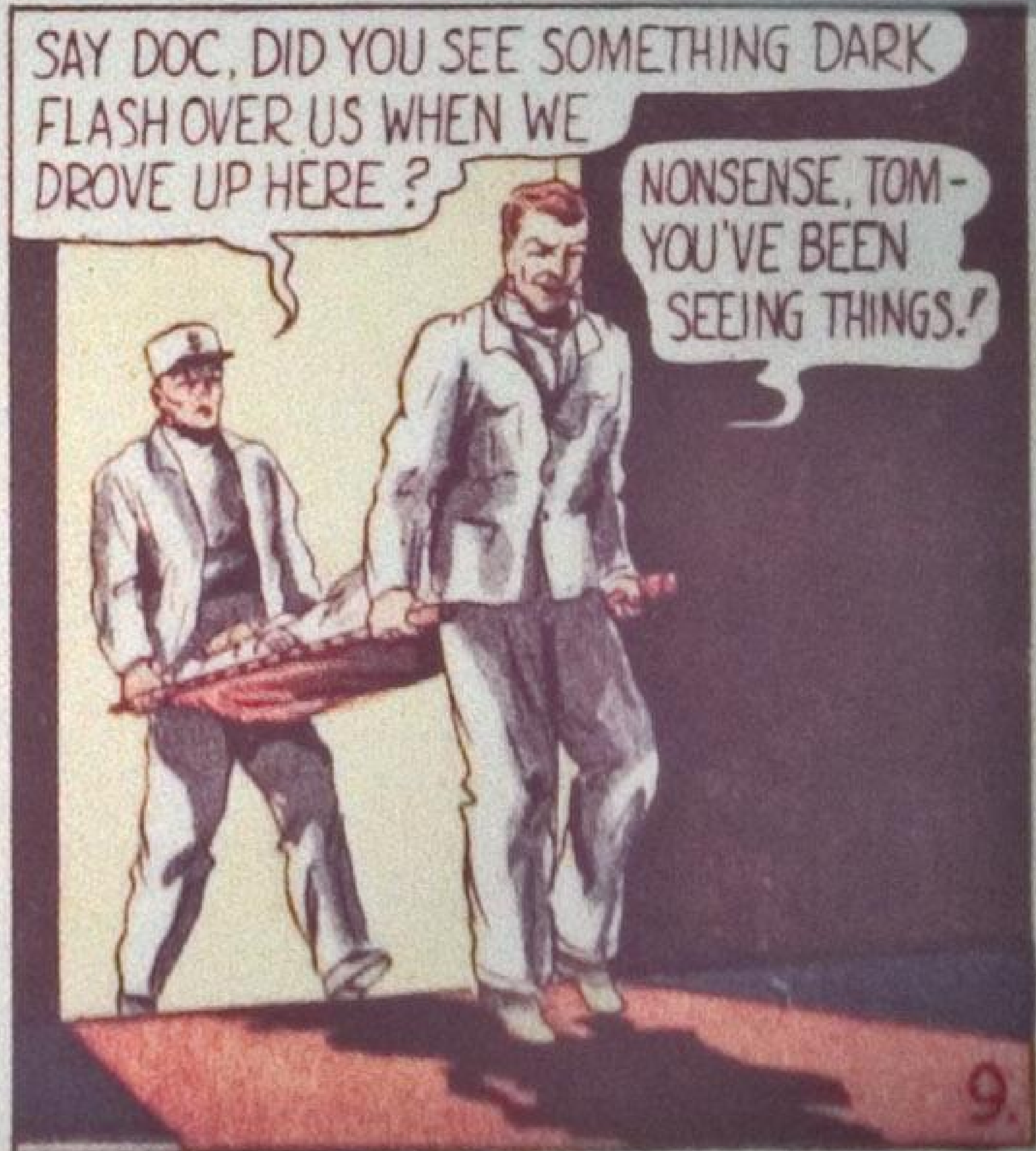

I DON'T KNOW, THOUGH-ON SECOND THOUGHT, I WANT THAT GIRL!

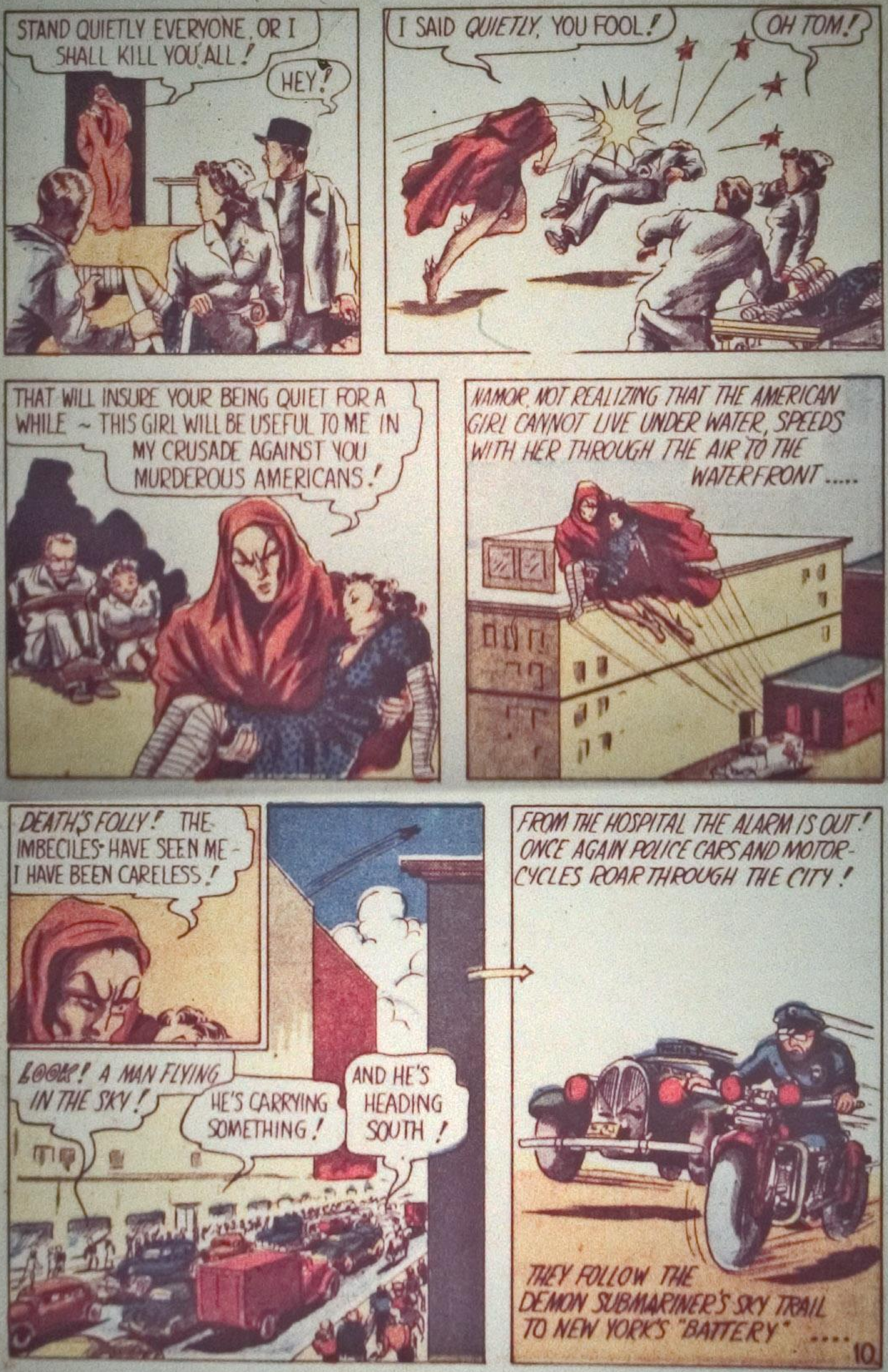

NAMOR LEAPS TO THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING, WHERE HE SEES ATTENDANTS CARRYING THE GIRL INTO THE STREET

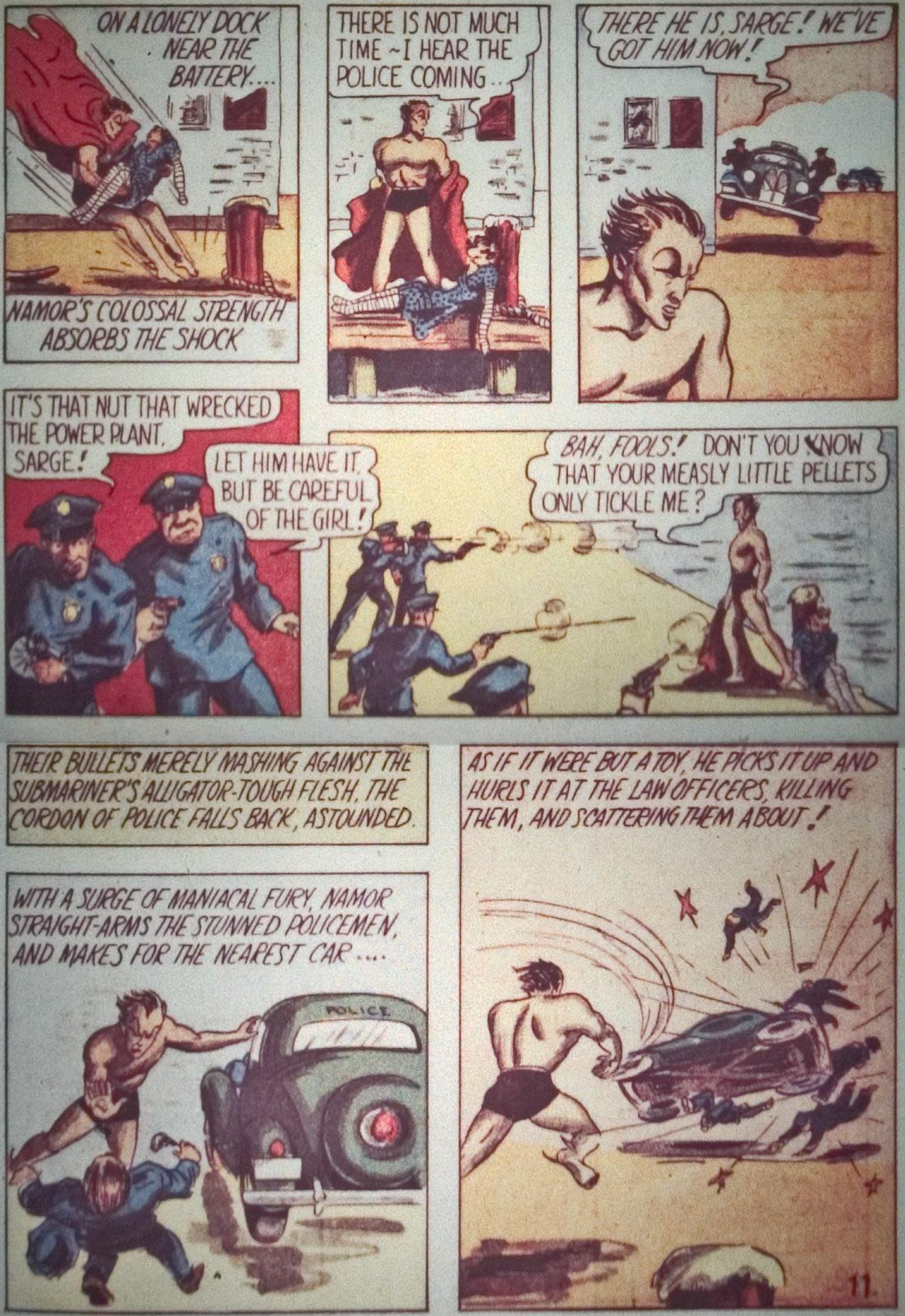

HE DIVES TO THE TOP OF THE AMBULANCE, WHERE HE CROUCHES AS IT RACES THROUGH THE TRAFFIC, SIREN SCREAMING!
BELL-VIEW HOSPITAL

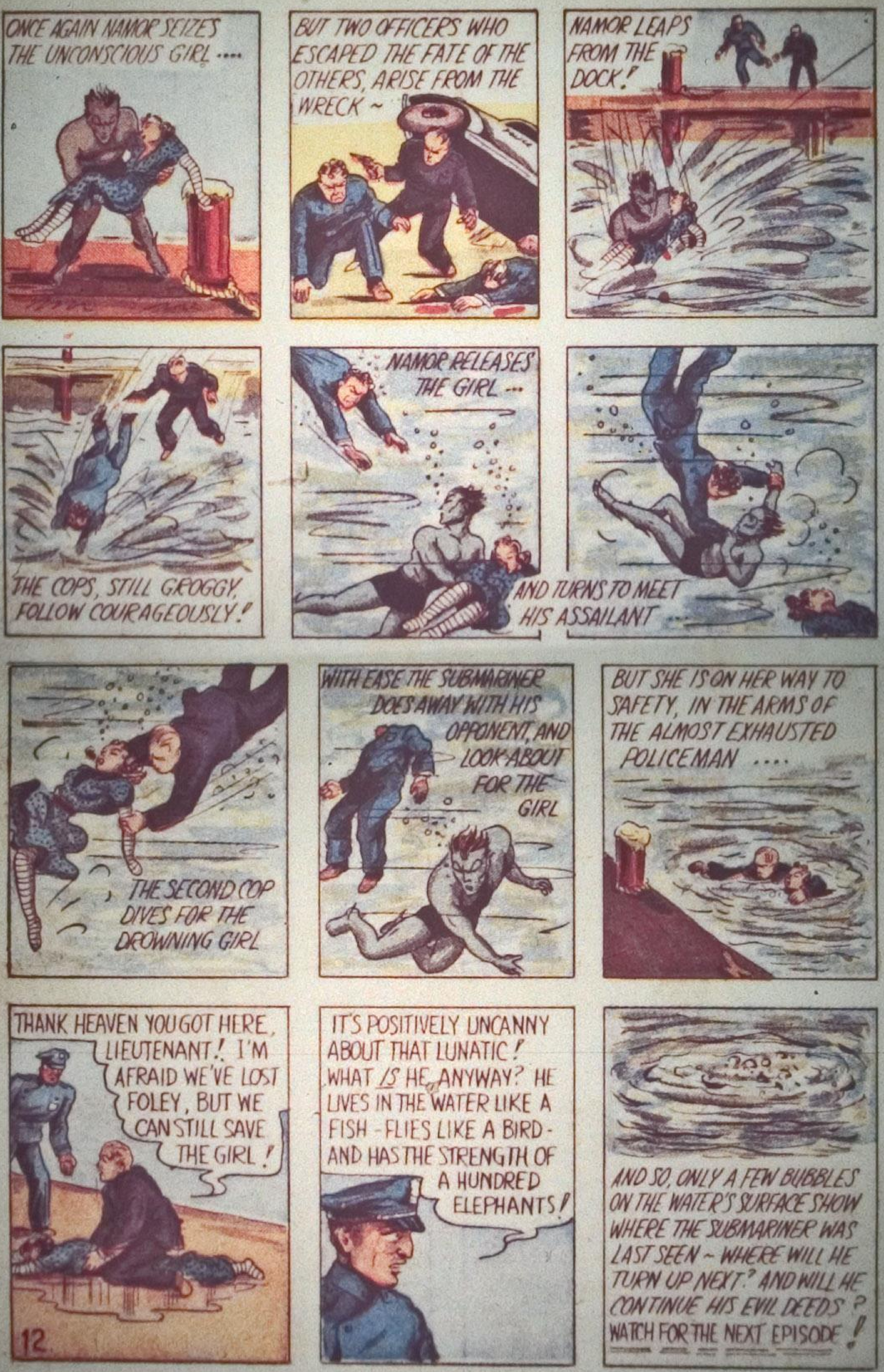

PEOPLE SURE GET EXCITED OVER AN ACCIDENT, DON'T THEY, TOM?
YOU SAID IT!
HEY, OFFICER, LOOK!
BRRREEEEET!


ACCIDENT WARD EMERGENCY ENTRANCE
BELL-VIEW HOSPITAL


SAY DOC, DID YOU SEE SOMETHING DARK FLASH OVER US WHEN WE DROVE UP HERE?
NONSENSE, TOM-YOU'VE BEEN SEEING THINGS!

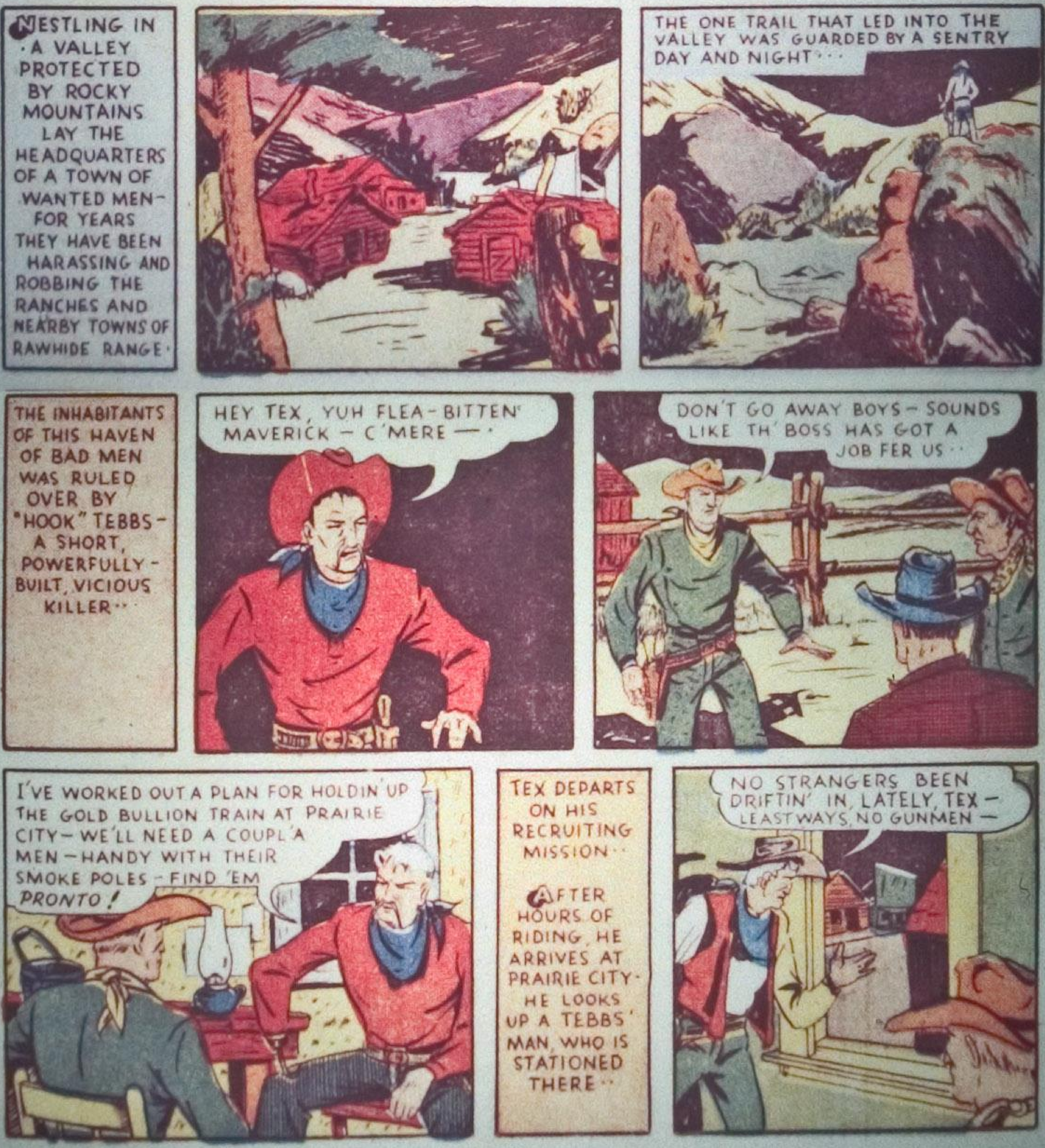

STAND QUIETLY EVERYONE, OR I SHALL KILL YOU ALL!
HEY!
I SAID QUIETLY, YOU FOOL!
OH TOM!
THAT WILL INSURE YOUR BEING QUIET FOR A WHILE ~ THIS GIRL WILL BE USEFUL TO ME IN MY CRUSADE AGAINST YOU MURDEROUS AMERICANS!
NAMOR, NOT REALIZING THAT THE AMERICAN GIRL CANNOT LIVE UNDER WATER, SPEEDS WITH HER THROUGH THE AIR TO THE WATERFRONT.....
DEATH'S FOLLY! THE IMBECILES HAVE SEEN ME - I HAVE BEEN CARELESS!
LOOK! A MAN FLYING IN THE SKY!
HE'S CARRYING SOMETHING!
AND HE'S HEADING SOUTH!
FROM THE HOSPITAL THE ALARM IS OUT! ONCE AGAIN POLICE CARS AND MOTORCYCLES ROAR THROUGH THE CITY!
THEY FOLLOW THE DEMON SUBMARINER'S SKY TRAIL TO NEW YORK'S "BATTERY" ....

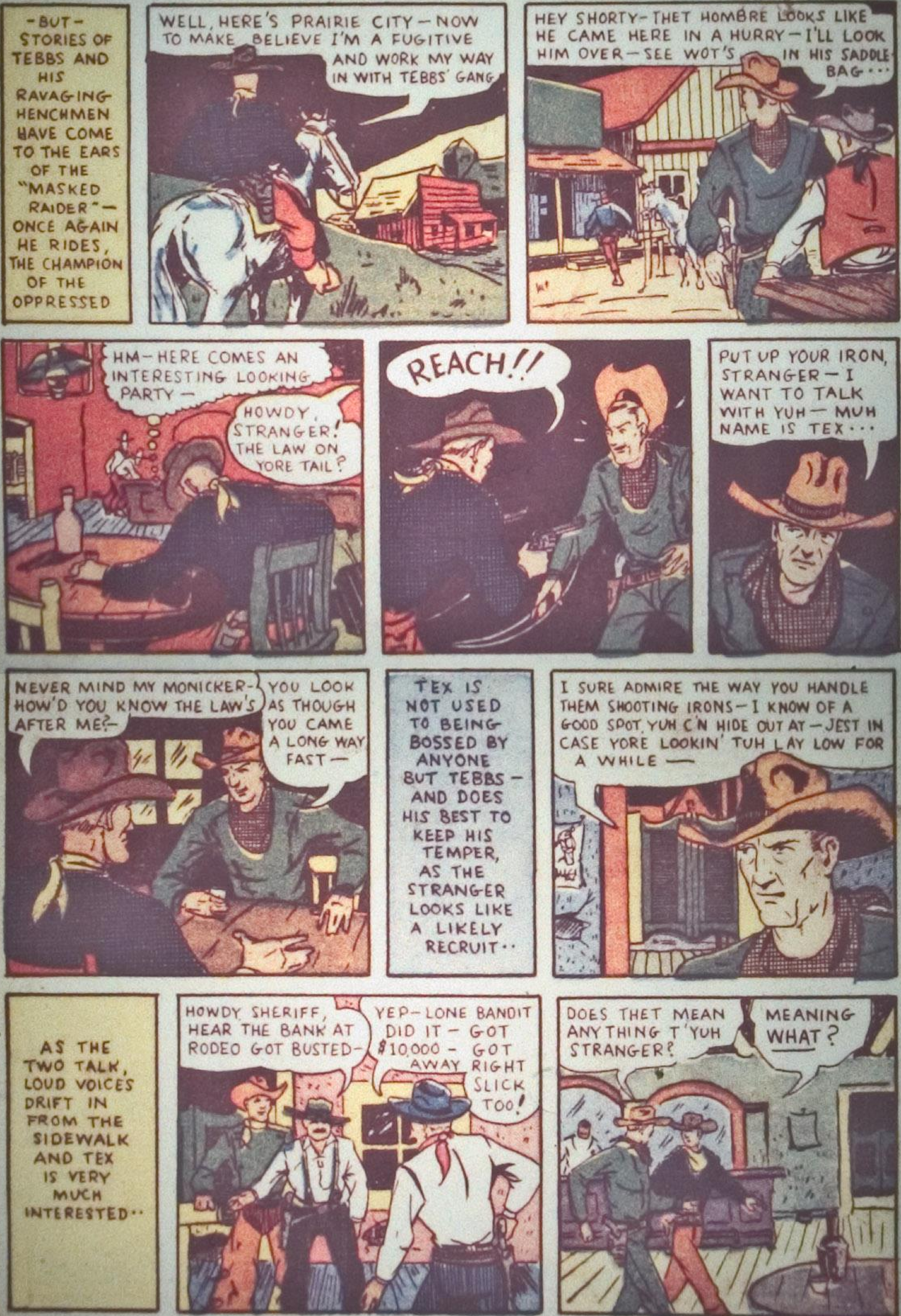

ON A LONELY DOCK NEAR THE BATTERY....
NAMOR'S COLOSSAL STRENGTH ABSORBS THE SHOCK
THERE IS NOT MUCH TIME ~I HEAR THE POLICE COMING..
THERE HE IS, SARGE! WE'VE GOT HIM NOW!
IT'S THAT NUT THAT WRECKED THE POWER PLANT, SARGE!
LET HIM HAVE IT, BUT BE CAREFUL OF THE GIRL!
BAH, FOOLS! DON'T YOU KNOW THAT YOUR MEASLY LITTLE PELLETS ONLY TICKLE ME?
THEIR BULLETS MERELY MASHING AGAINST THE SUBMARINER'S ALLIGATOR-TOUGH FLESH, THE CORDON OF POLICE FALLS BACK, ASTOUNDED.
WITH A SURGE OF MANIACAL FURY, NAMOR STRAIGHT-ARMS THE STUNNED POLICEMEN, AND MAKES FOR THE NEAREST CAR....
POLICE
AS IF IT WERE BUT A TOY, HE PICKS IT UP AND HURLS IT AT THE LAW OFFICERS, KILLING THEM, AND SCATTERING THEM ABOUT!

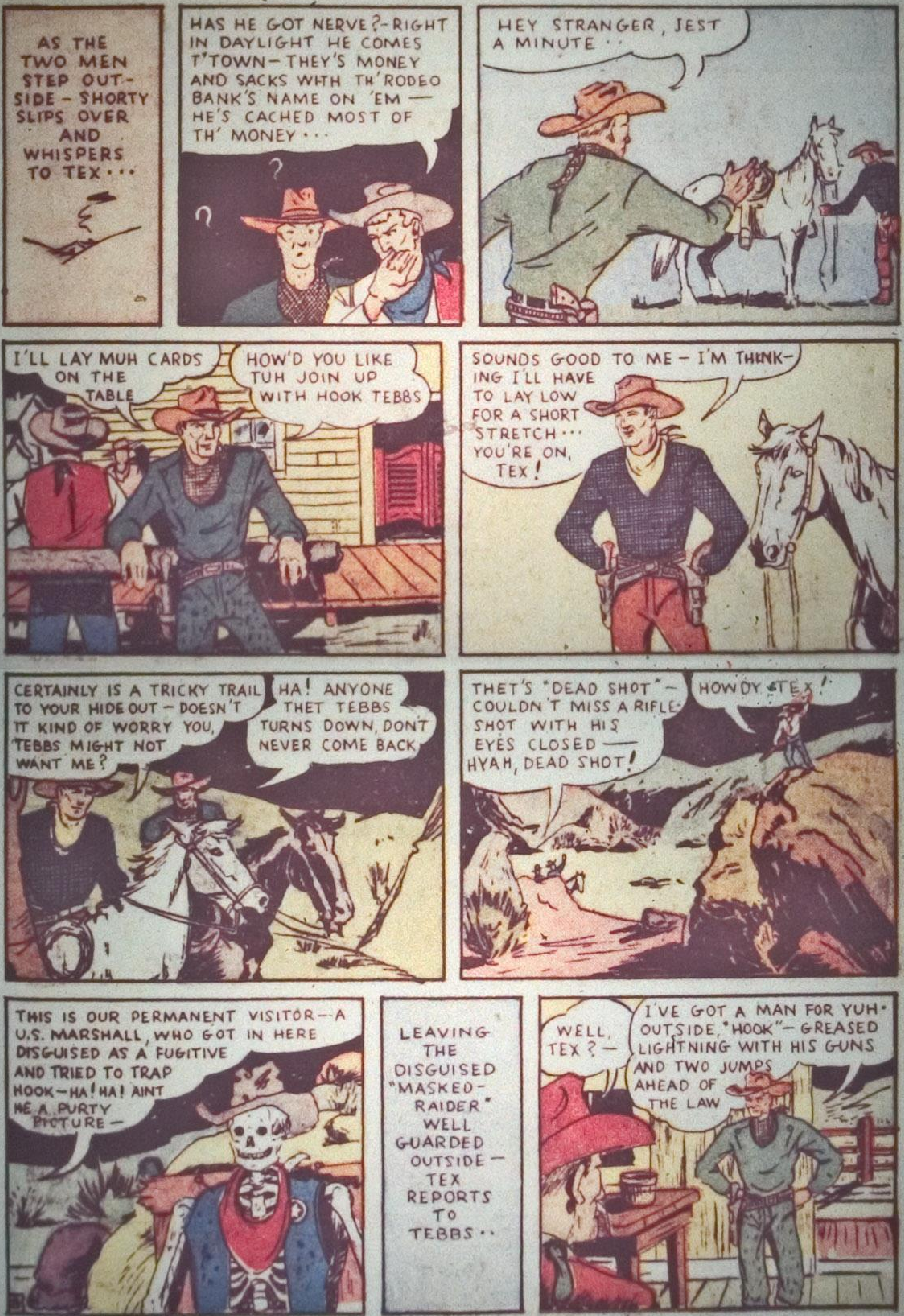

ONCE AGAIN NAMOR SEIZES THE UNCONSCIOUS GIRL....
BUT TWO OFFICERS WHO ESCAPED THE FATE OF THE OTHERS, ARISE FROM THE WRECK ~
NAMOR LEAPS FROM THE DOCK!
THE COPS, STILL GROGGY, FOLLOW COURAGEOUSLY!
NAMOR RELEASES THE GIRL...
AND TURNS TO MEET HIS ASSAILANT....
THE SECOND COP DIVES FOR THE DROWNING GIRL
WITH EASE THE SUBMARINER DOES AWAY WITH HIS OPPONENT, AND LOOK ABOUT FOR THE GIRL
BUT SHE IS ON HER WAY TO SAFETY, IN THE ARMS OF THE ALMOST EXHAUSTED POLICEMAN....
THANK HEAVEN YOU GOT HERE, LIEUTENANT! I'M AFRAID WE'VE LOST FOLEY, BUT WE CAN STILL SAVE THE GIRL!
IT'S POSITIVELY UNCANNY ABOUT THAT LUNATIC! WHAT IS HE, ANYWAY? HE LIVES IN THE WATER LIKE A FISH - FLIES LIKE A BIRD - AND HAS THE STRENGTH OF A HUNDRED ELEPHANTS!
AND SO, ONLY A FEW BUBBLES ON THE WATER'S SURFACE SHOW WHERE THE SUBMARINER WAS LAST SEEN ~ WHERE WILL HE TURN UP NEXT? AND WILL HE CONTINUE HIS EVIL DEEDS? WATCH FOR THE NEXT EPISODE!

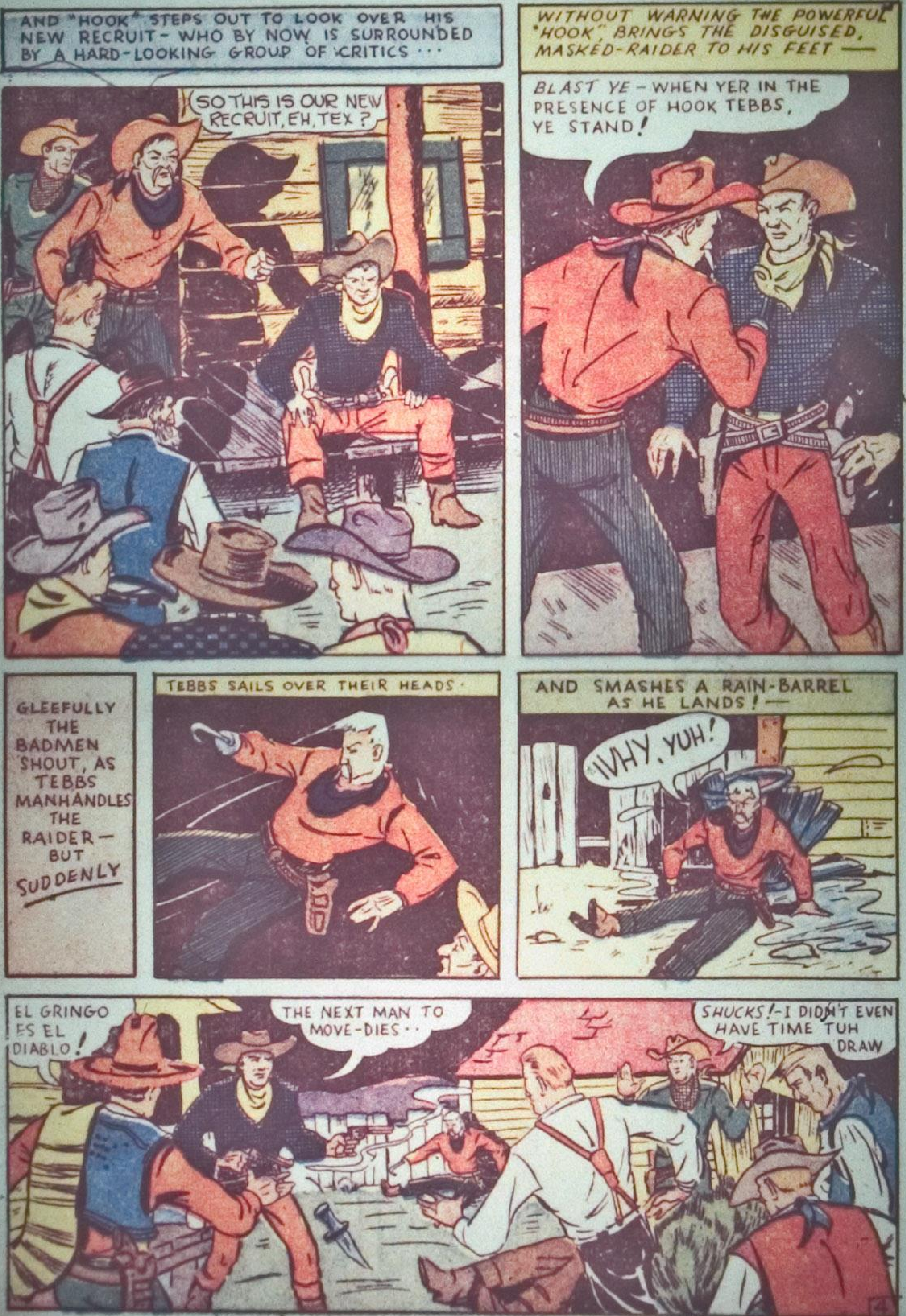
THE MASKED RAIDER

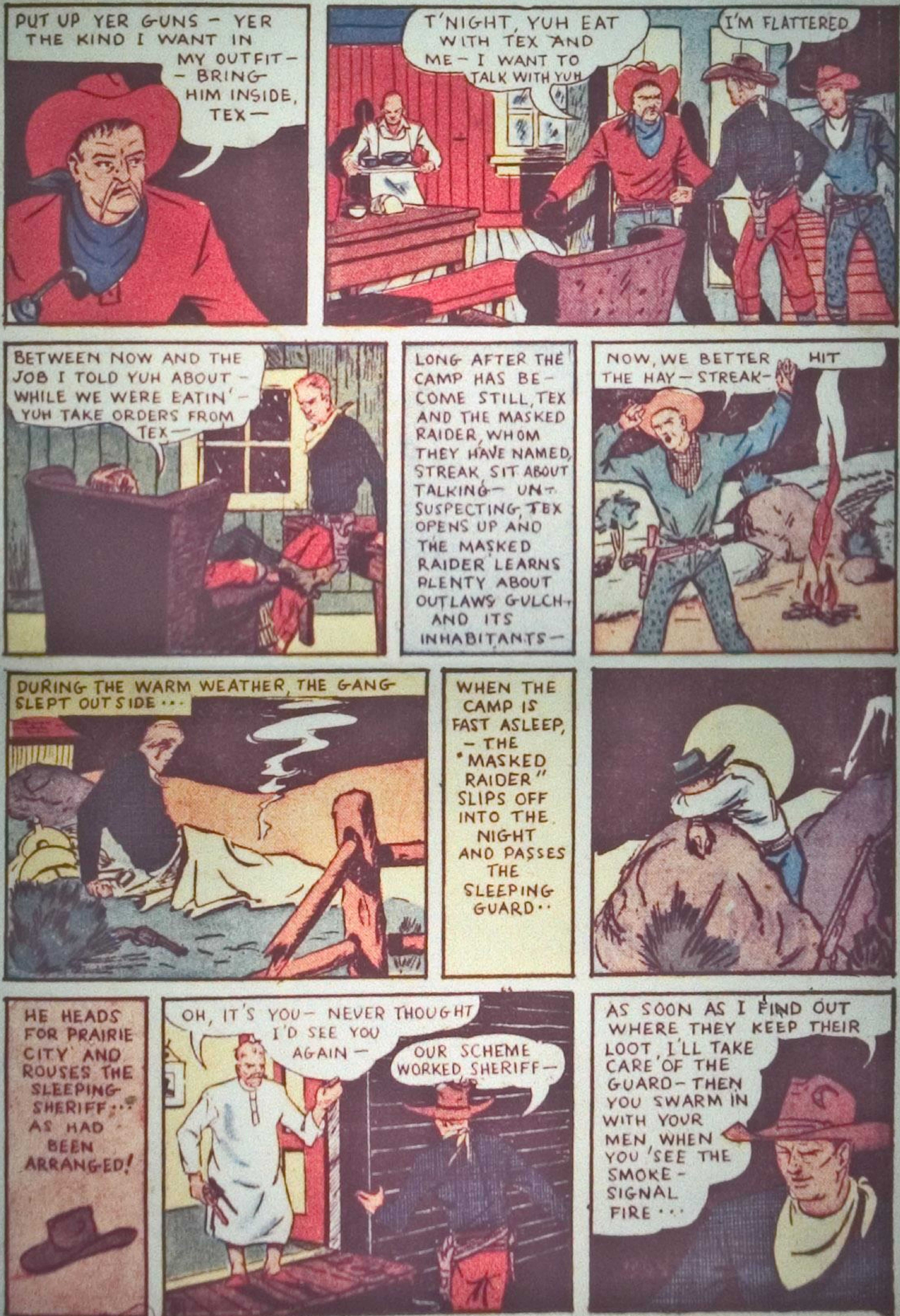
by ANDERS

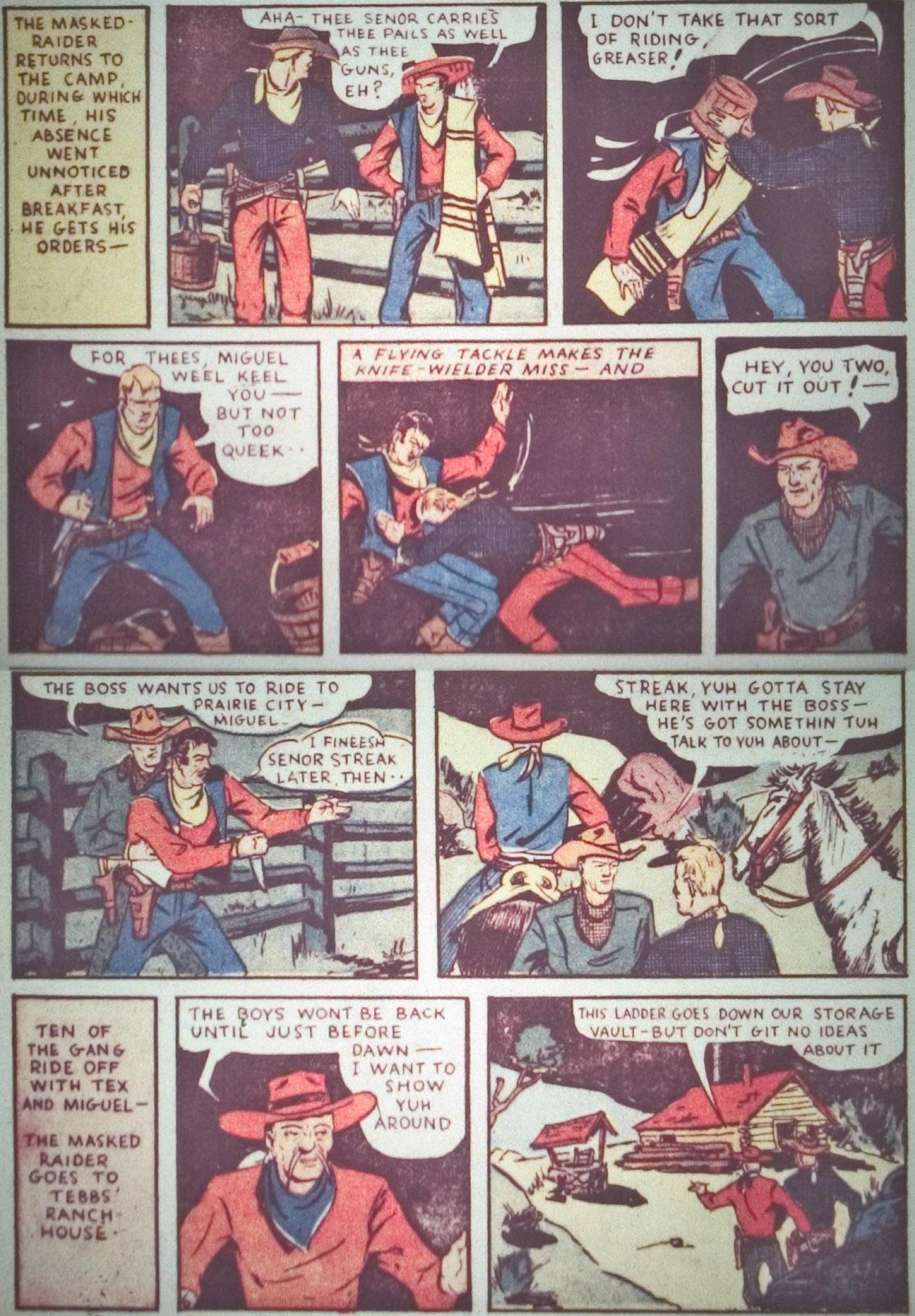

NESTLING IN A VALLEY PROTECTED BY ROCKY MOUNTAINS LAY THE HEADQUARTERS OF A TOWN OF WANTED MEN—FOR YEARS THEY HAVE BEEN HARASSING AND ROBBING THE RANCHES AND NEARBY TOWNS OF RAWHIDE RANGE.
THE ONE TRAIL THAT LED INTO THE VALLEY WAS GUARDED BY A SENTRY DAY AND NIGHT...
THE INHABITANTS OF THIS HAVEN OF BAD MEN WAS RULED OVER BY "HOOK" TEBBS—A SHORT, POWERFULLY-BUILT, VICIOUS KILLER..
HEY TEX, YUH FLEA-BITTEN MAVERICK — C'MERE —.
DON'T GO AWAY BOYS—SOUNDS LIKE TH' BOSS HAS GOT A JOB FER US..
I'VE WORKED OUT A PLAN FOR HOLDIN' UP THE GOLD BULLION TRAIN AT PRAIRIE CITY—WE'LL NEED A COUPL'A MEN—HANDY WITH THEIR SMOKE POLES—FIND 'EM PRONTO!
TEX DEPARTS ON HIS RECRUITING MISSION.. AFTER HOURS OF RIDING, HE ARRIVES AT PRAIRIE CITY. HE LOOKS UP A TEBBS' MAN, WHO IS STATIONED THERE..
NO STRANGERS BEEN DRIFTIN' IN, LATELY, TEX—LEASTWAYS, NO GUNMEN—

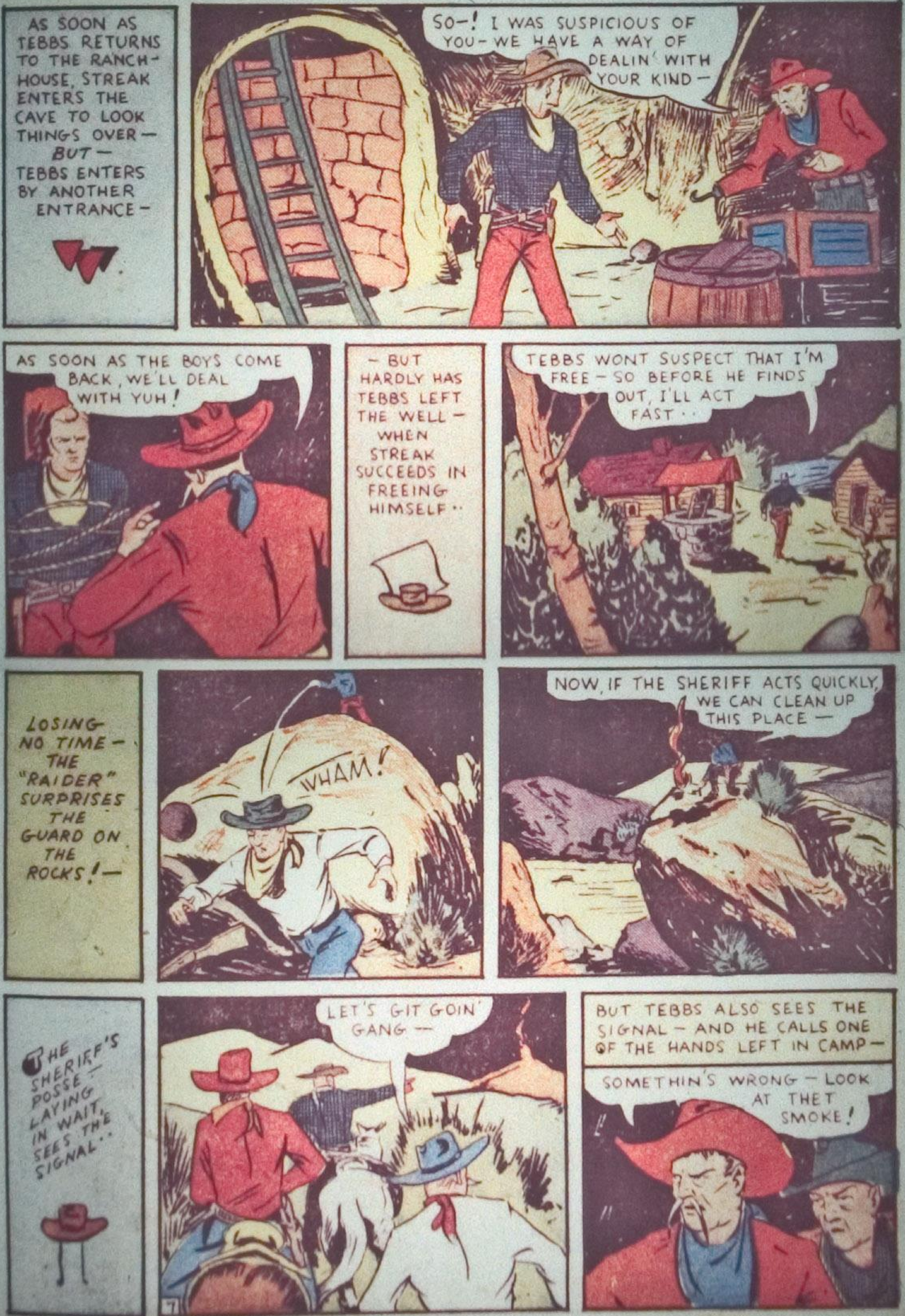

-BUT- STORIES OF TEBBS AND HIS RAVAGING HENCHMEN HAVE COME TO THE EARS OF THE "MASKED RAIDER" — ONCE AGAIN HE RIDES, THE CHAMPION OF THE OPPRESSED
WELL, HERE'S PRAIRIE CITY — NOW TO MAKE BELIEVE I'M A FUGITIVE AND WORK MY WAY IN WITH TEBBS' GANG
HEY SHORTY — THET HOMBRE LOOKS LIKE HE CAME HERE IN A HURRY — I'LL LOOK HIM OVER — SEE WOT'S IN HIS SADDLE BAG...
HM — HERE COMES AN INTERESTING LOOKING PARTY —
HOWDY, STRANGER! THE LAW ON YORE TAIL?
REACH!!
PUT UP YOUR IRON, STRANGER — I WANT TO TALK WITH YUH — MUH NAME IS TEX...
NEVER MIND MY MONICKER — HOW'D YOU KNOW THE LAW'S AFTER ME?
YOU LOOK AS THOUGH YOU CAME A LONG WAY FAST —
TEX IS NOT USED TO BEING BOSSED BY ANYONE BUT TEBBS — AND DOES HIS BEST TO KEEP HIS TEMPER, AS THE STRANGER LOOKS LIKE A LIKELY RECRUIT..
I SURE ADMIRE THE WAY YOU HANDLE THEM SHOOTING IRONS — I KNOW OF A GOOD SPOT YUH C'N HIDE OUT AT — JEST IN CASE YORE LOOKIN' TUH LAY LOW FOR A WHILE —
AS THE TWO TALK, LOUD VOICES DRIFT IN FROM THE SIDEWALK AND TEX IS VERY MUCH INTERESTED..
HOWDY SHERIFF, HEAR THE BANK AT RODEO GOT BUSTED —
YEP — LONE BANDIT DID IT — GOT $10,000 — GOT AWAY RIGHT SLICK TOO!
DOES THET MEAN ANYTHING T'YUH STRANGER?
MEANING WHAT?

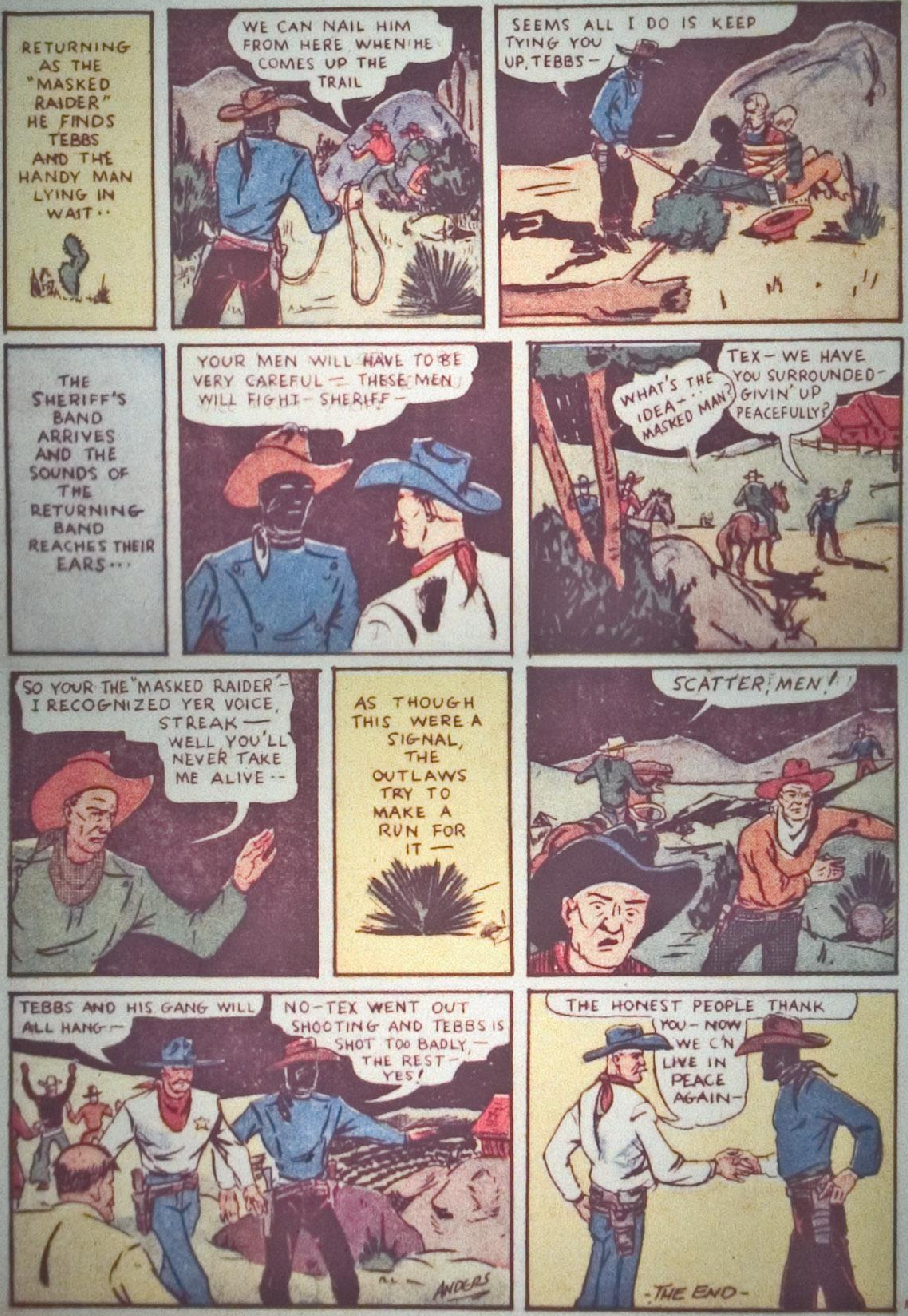

AS THE TWO MEN STEP OUTSIDE - SHORTY SLIPS OVER AND WHISPERS TO TEX ···
HAS HE GOT NERVE?- RIGHT IN DAYLIGHT HE COMES T'TOWN - THEY'S MONEY AND SACKS WITH TH' RODEO BANK'S NAME ON 'EM — HE'S CACHED MOST OF TH' MONEY ···
?
?
HEY STRANGER, JEST A MINUTE ··
I'LL LAY MUH CARDS ON THE TABLE
HOW'D YOU LIKE TUH JOIN UP WITH HOOK TEBBS
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME - I'M THINKING I'LL HAVE TO LAY LOW FOR A SHORT STRETCH ··· YOU'RE ON, TEX!
CERTAINLY IS A TRICKY TRAIL TO YOUR HIDE OUT - DOESN'T IT KIND OF WORRY YOU, TEBBS MIGHT NOT WANT ME?
HA! ANYONE THET TEBBS TURNS DOWN, DON'T NEVER COME BACK
THET'S "DEAD SHOT" - COULDN'T MISS A RIFLE SHOT WITH HIS EYES CLOSED — HYAH, DEAD SHOT!
HOWDY TEX!
THIS IS OUR PERMANENT VISITOR — A U.S. MARSHALL, WHO GOT IN HERE DISGUISED AS A FUGITIVE AND TRIED TO TRAP HOOK - HA! HA! AINT HE A PURTY PICTURE -
LEAVING THE DISGUISED "MASKED-RAIDER" WELL GUARDED OUTSIDE - TEX REPORTS TO TEBBS ··
WELL, TEX? -
I'VE GOT A MAN FOR YUH OUTSIDE, "HOOK" - GREASED LIGHTNING WITH HIS GUNS AND TWO JUMPS AHEAD OF THE LAW

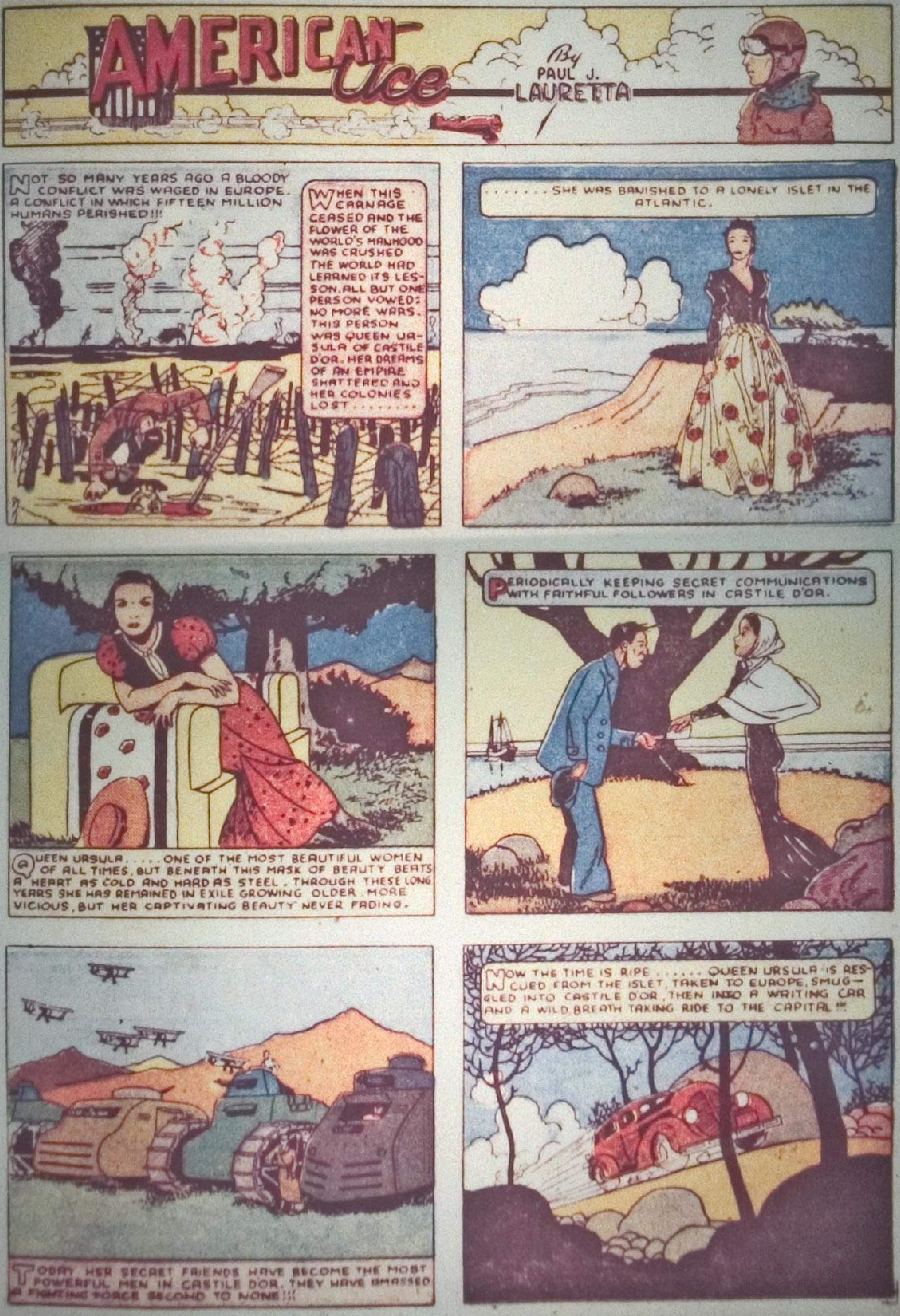

AND "HOOK" STEPS OUT TO LOOK OVER HIS NEW RECRUIT - WHO BY NOW IS SURROUNDED BY A HARD-LOOKING GROUP OF CRITICS · · ·
SO THIS IS OUR NEW RECRUIT, EH, TEX?
WITHOUT WARNING THE POWERFUL "HOOK" BRINGS THE DISGUISED, MASKED-RAIDER TO HIS FEET —
BLAST YE - WHEN YER IN THE PRESENCE OF HOOK TEBBS, YE STAND!
GLEEFULLY THE BADMEN SHOUT, AS TEBBS MANHANDLES THE RAIDER — BUT SUDDENLY
TEBBS SAILS OVER THEIR HEADS ·
AND SMASHES A RAIN-BARREL AS HE LANDS! —
WHY, YUH!
EL GRINGO ES EL DIABLO!
THE NEXT MAN TO MOVE - DIES · ·
SHUCKS! - I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TIME TUH DRAW


PUT UP YER GUNS - YER THE KIND I WANT IN MY OUTFIT - - BRING HIM INSIDE, TEX -
T'NIGHT, YUH EAT WITH TEX AND ME - I WANT TO TALK WITH YUH
I'M FLATTERED
BETWEEN NOW AND THE JOB I TOLD YUH ABOUT - WHILE WE WERE EATIN' - YUH TAKE ORDERS FROM TEX—
LONG AFTER THE CAMP HAS BECOME STILL, TEX AND THE MASKED RAIDER, WHOM THEY HAVE NAMED, STREAK SIT ABOUT TALKING— UNSUSPECTING, TEX OPENS UP AND THE MASKED RAIDER LEARNS PLENTY ABOUT OUTLAWS GULCH, AND ITS INHABITANTS—
NOW, WE BETTER HIT THE HAY—STREAK—
DURING THE WARM WEATHER, THE GANG SLEPT OUTSIDE...
WHEN THE CAMP IS FAST ASLEEP, — THE "MASKED RAIDER" SLIPS OFF INTO THE NIGHT AND PASSES THE SLEEPING GUARD..
HE HEADS FOR PRAIRIE CITY AND ROUSES THE SLEEPING SHERIFF... AS HAD BEEN ARRANGED!
OH, IT'S YOU - NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE YOU AGAIN -
OUR SCHEME WORKED SHERIFF—
AS SOON AS I FIND OUT WHERE THEY KEEP THEIR LOOT, I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE GUARD—THEN YOU SWARM IN WITH YOUR MEN, WHEN YOU SEE THE SMOKE-SIGNAL FIRE...


THE MASKED-RAIDER RETURNS TO THE CAMP, DURING WHICH TIME, HIS ABSENCE WENT UNNOTICED AFTER BREAKFAST, HE GETS HIS ORDERS—
AHA- THEE SENOR CARRIES THEE PAILS AS WELL AS THEE GUNS, EH?
I DON'T TAKE THAT SORT OF RIDING, GREASER!
FOR THEES, MIGUEL WEEL KEEL YOU— BUT NOT TOO QUEEK..
A FLYING TACKLE MAKES THE KNIFE-WIELDER MISS— AND
HEY, YOU TWO, CUT IT OUT!—
THE BOSS WANTS US TO RIDE TO PRAIRIE CITY- MIGUEL.
I FINEESH SENOR STREAK LATER, THEN..
STREAK, YUH GOTTA STAY HERE WITH THE BOSS— HE'S GOT SOMETHIN TUH TALK TO YUH ABOUT—
TEN OF THE GANG RIDE OFF WITH TEX AND MIGUEL— THE MASKED RAIDER GOES TO TEBBS' RANCH-HOUSE.
THE BOYS WONT BE BACK UNTIL JUST BEFORE DAWN— I WANT TO SHOW YUH AROUND
THIS LADDER GOES DOWN OUR STORAGE VAULT-BUT DON'T GIT NO IDEAS ABOUT IT

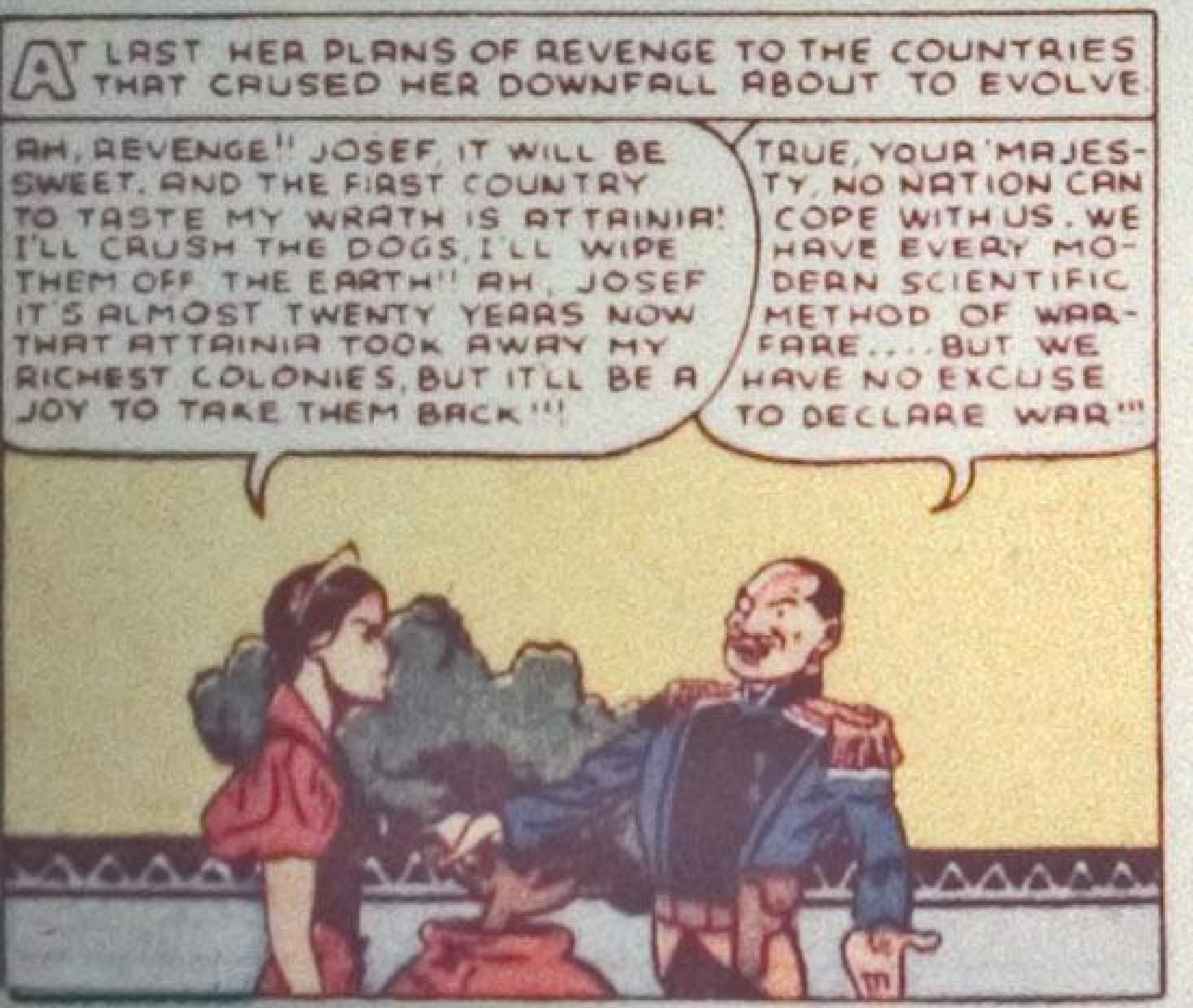

AS SOON AS TEBBS RETURNS TO THE RANCH-HOUSE, STREAK ENTERS THE CAVE TO LOOK THINGS OVER — BUT — TEBBS ENTERS BY ANOTHER ENTRANCE —
SO—! I WAS SUSPICIOUS OF YOU — WE HAVE A WAY OF DEALIN' WITH YOUR KIND —
AS SOON AS THE BOYS COME BACK, WE'LL DEAL WITH YUH!
— BUT HARDLY HAS TEBBS LEFT THE WELL — WHEN STREAK SUCCEEDS IN FREEING HIMSELF ..
TEBBS WONT SUSPECT THAT I'M FREE — SO BEFORE HE FINDS OUT, I'LL ACT FAST ..
LOSING NO TIME — THE "RAIDER" SURPRISES THE GUARD ON THE ROCKS! —
WHAM!
NOW, IF THE SHERIFF ACTS QUICKLY, WE CAN CLEAN UP THIS PLACE —
THE SHERIFF'S POSSE — LAYING IN WAIT, SEES THE SIGNAL ..
LET'S GIT GOIN' GANG —
BUT TEBBS ALSO SEES THE SIGNAL — AND HE CALLS ONE OF THE HANDS LEFT IN CAMP —
SOMETHIN'S WRONG — LOOK AT THET SMOKE!

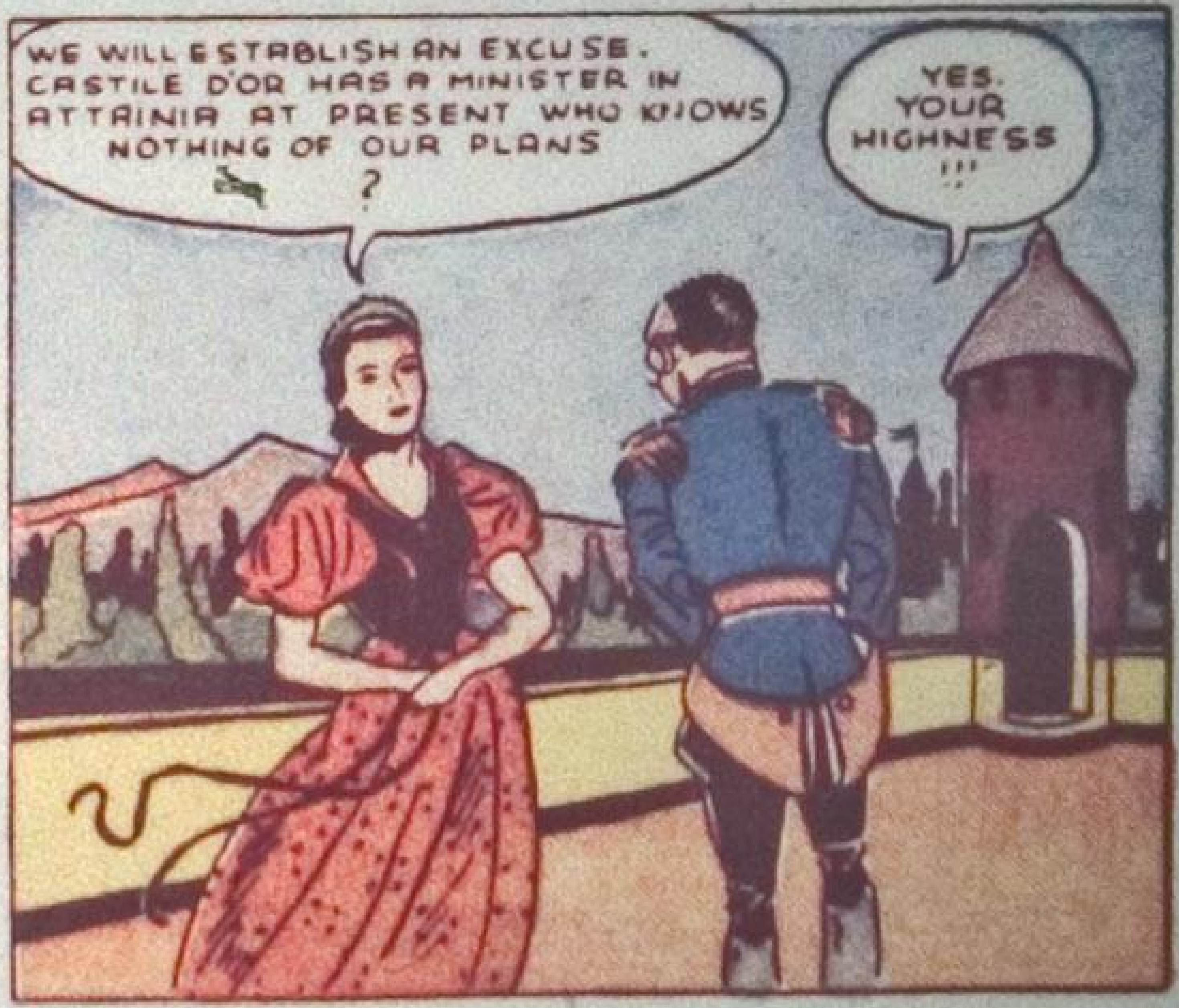

RETURNING AS THE "MASKED RAIDER" HE FINDS TEBBS AND THE HANDY MAN LYING IN WAIT··
WE CAN NAIL HIM FROM HERE WHEN HE COMES UP THE TRAIL
SEEMS ALL I DO IS KEEP TYING YOU UP, TEBBS —
THE SHERIFF'S BAND ARRIVES AND THE SOUNDS OF THE RETURNING BAND REACHES THEIR EARS···
YOUR MEN WILL HAVE TO BE VERY CAREFUL — THESE MEN WILL FIGHT — SHERIFF —
WHAT'S THE IDEA — MASKED MAN?
TEX — WE HAVE YOU SURROUNDED — GIVIN' UP PEACEFULLY?
SO YOUR THE "MASKED RAIDER" — I RECOGNIZED YER VOICE, STREAK — WELL YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME ALIVE --
AS THOUGH THIS WERE A SIGNAL, THE OUTLAWS TRY TO MAKE A RUN FOR IT —
SCATTER, MEN!
TEBBS AND HIS GANG WILL ALL HANG —
NO — TEX WENT OUT SHOOTING AND TEBBS IS SHOT TOO BADLY, — THE REST — YES!
ANDERS
THE HONEST PEOPLE THANK YOU — NOW WE C'N LIVE IN PEACE AGAIN —
- THE END -

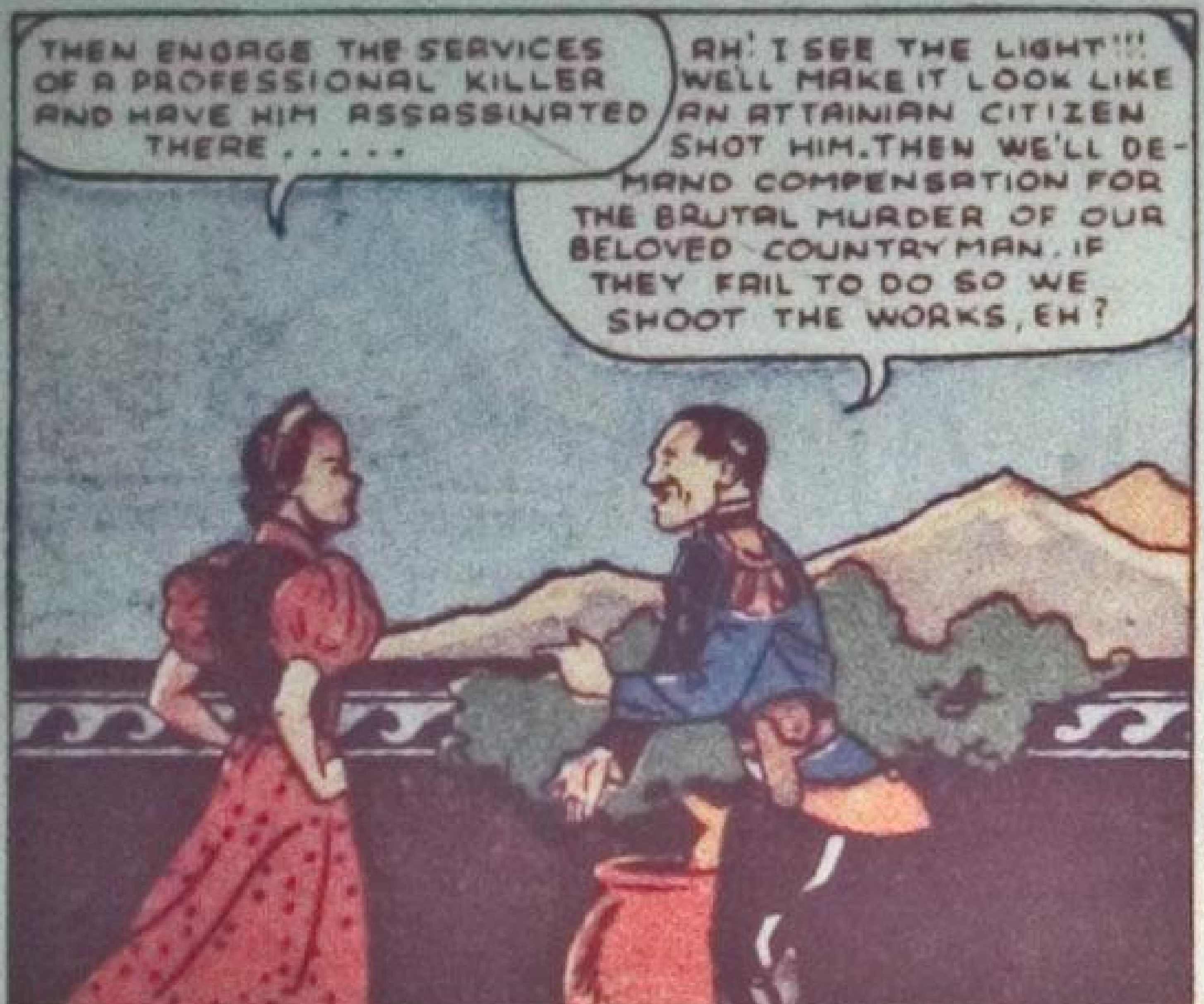

AMERICAN Ace
By PAUL J. LAURETTA
NOT SO MANY YEARS AGO A BLOODY CONFLICT WAS WAGED IN EUROPE. A CONFLICT IN WHICH FIFTEEN MILLION HUMANS PERISHED!!!
WHEN THIS CARNAGE CEASED AND THE FLOWER OF THE WORLD'S MANHOOD WAS CRUSHED THE WORLD HAD LEARNED ITS LESSON. ALL BUT ONE PERSON VOWED: NO MORE WARS. THIS PERSON WAS QUEEN URSULA OF CASTILE D'OR. HER DREAMS OF AN EMPIRE SHATTERED AND HER COLONIES LOST........
.......SHE WAS BANISHED TO A LONELY ISLET IN THE ATLANTIC.
QUEEN URSULA.....ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMEN OF ALL TIMES, BUT BENEATH THIS MASK OF BEAUTY BEATS A HEART AS COLD AND HARD AS STEEL. THROUGH THESE LONG YEARS SHE HAS REMAINED IN EXILE GROWING OLDER, MORE VICIOUS, BUT HER CAPTIVATING BEAUTY NEVER FADING.
PERIODICALLY KEEPING SECRET COMMUNICATIONS WITH FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS IN CASTILE D'OR.
TODAY HER SECRET FRIENDS HAVE BECOME THE MOST POWERFUL MEN IN CASTILE D'OR. THEY HAVE AMASSED A FIGHTING FORCE SECOND TO NONE!!!
NOW THE TIME IS RIPE...... QUEEN URSULA IS RESCUED FROM THE ISLET, TAKEN TO EUROPE, SMUGGLED INTO CASTILE D'OR, THEN INTO A WRITING CAR AND A WILD BREATH TAKING RIDE TO THE CAPITAL!!!

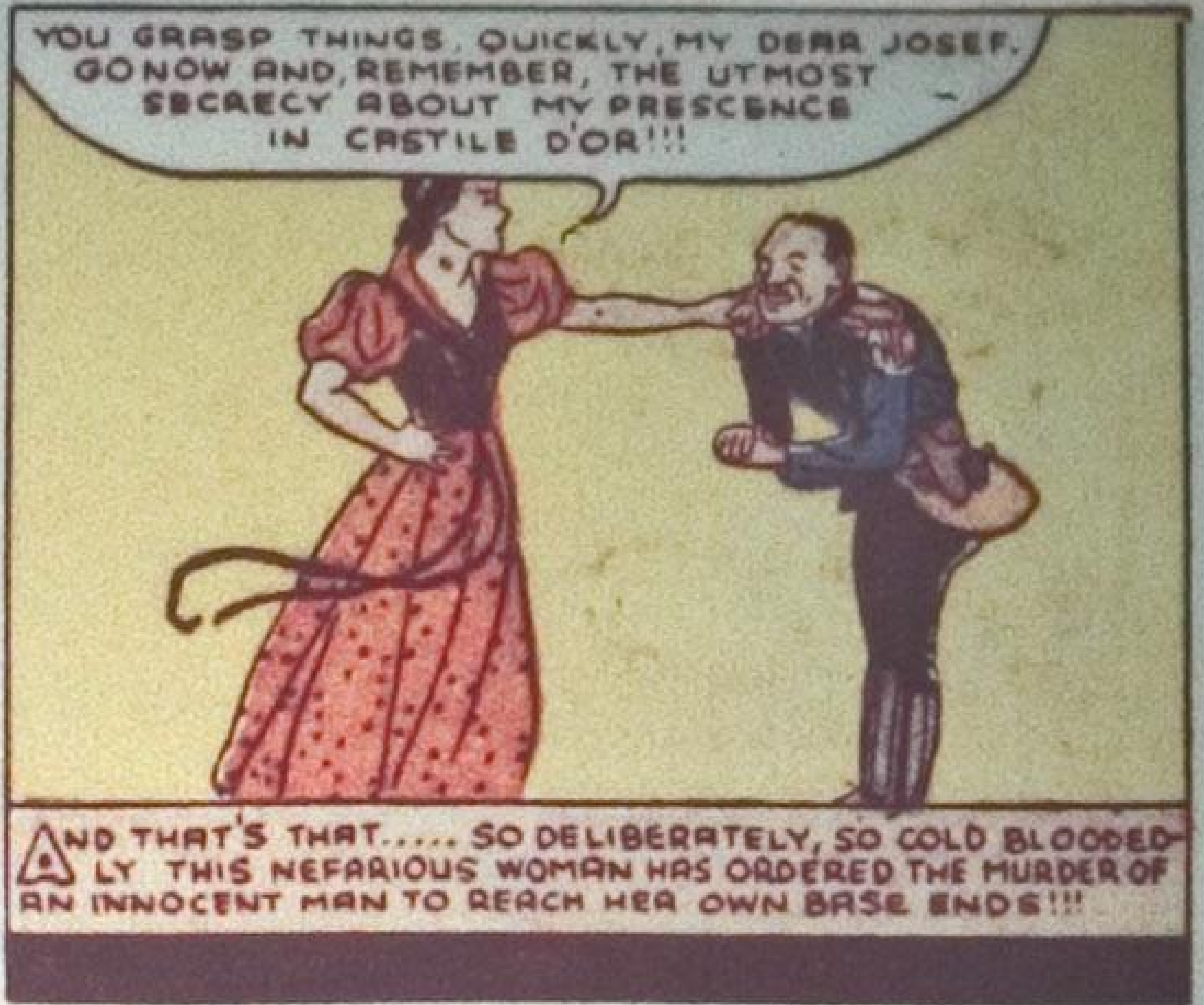
AMERICAN Ace

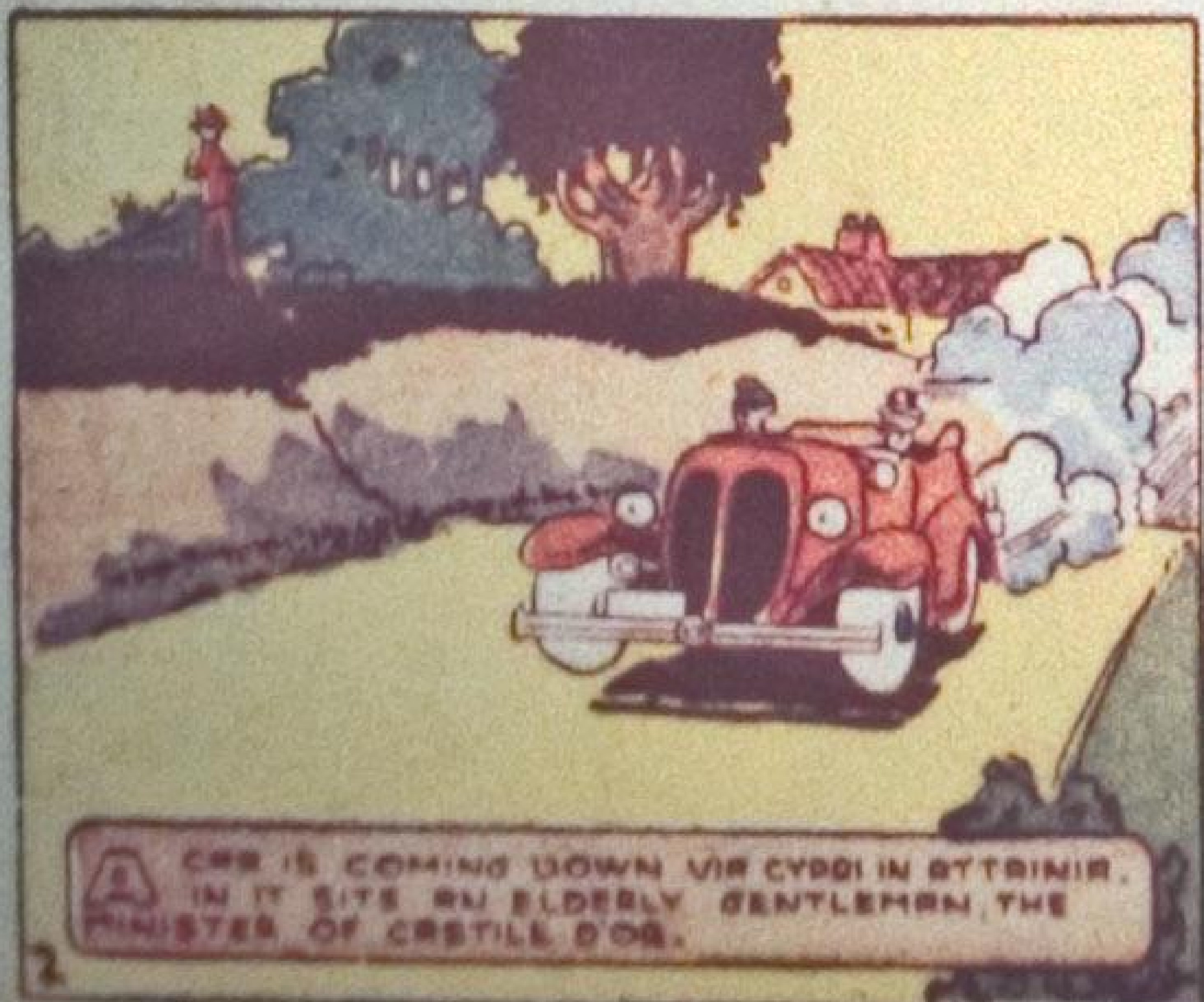
By PAUL J. LAURETTA

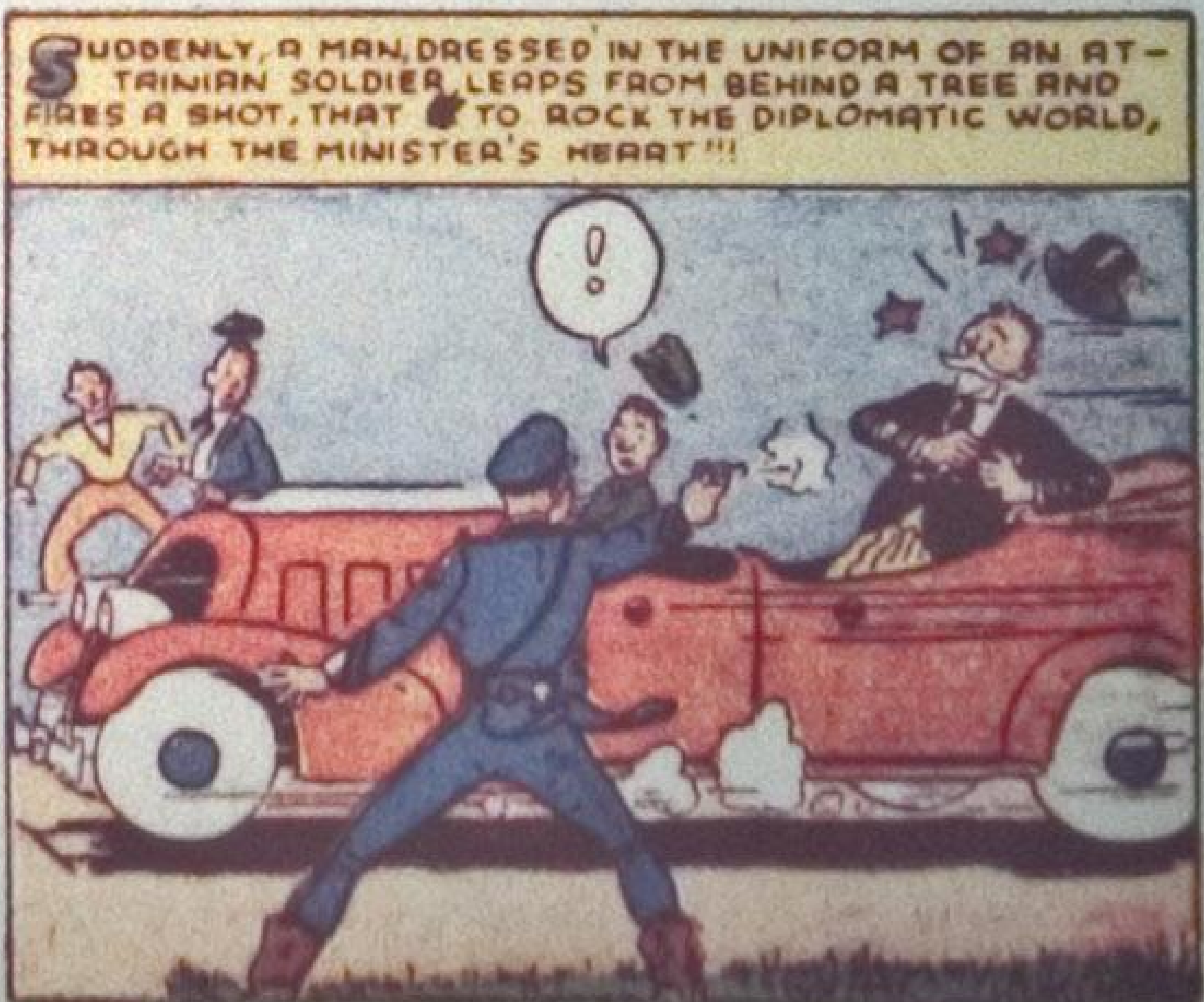

AT LAST HER PLANS OF REVENGE TO THE COUNTRIES THAT CAUSED HER DOWNFALL ABOUT TO EVOLVE.
AH, REVENGE!! JOSEF, IT WILL BE SWEET. AND THE FIRST COUNTRY TO TASTE MY WRATH IS ATTAINIA! I'LL CRUSH THE DOGS, I'LL WIPE THEM OFF THE EARTH!! AH, JOSEF IT'S ALMOST TWENTY YEARS NOW THAT ATTAINIA TOOK AWAY MY RICHEST COLONIES, BUT IT'LL BE A JOY TO TAKE THEM BACK!!!
TRUE, YOUR MAJESTY, NO NATION CAN COPE WITH US. WE HAVE EVERY MODERN SCIENTIFIC METHOD OF WARFARE.... BUT WE HAVE NO EXCUSE TO DECLARE WAR!!

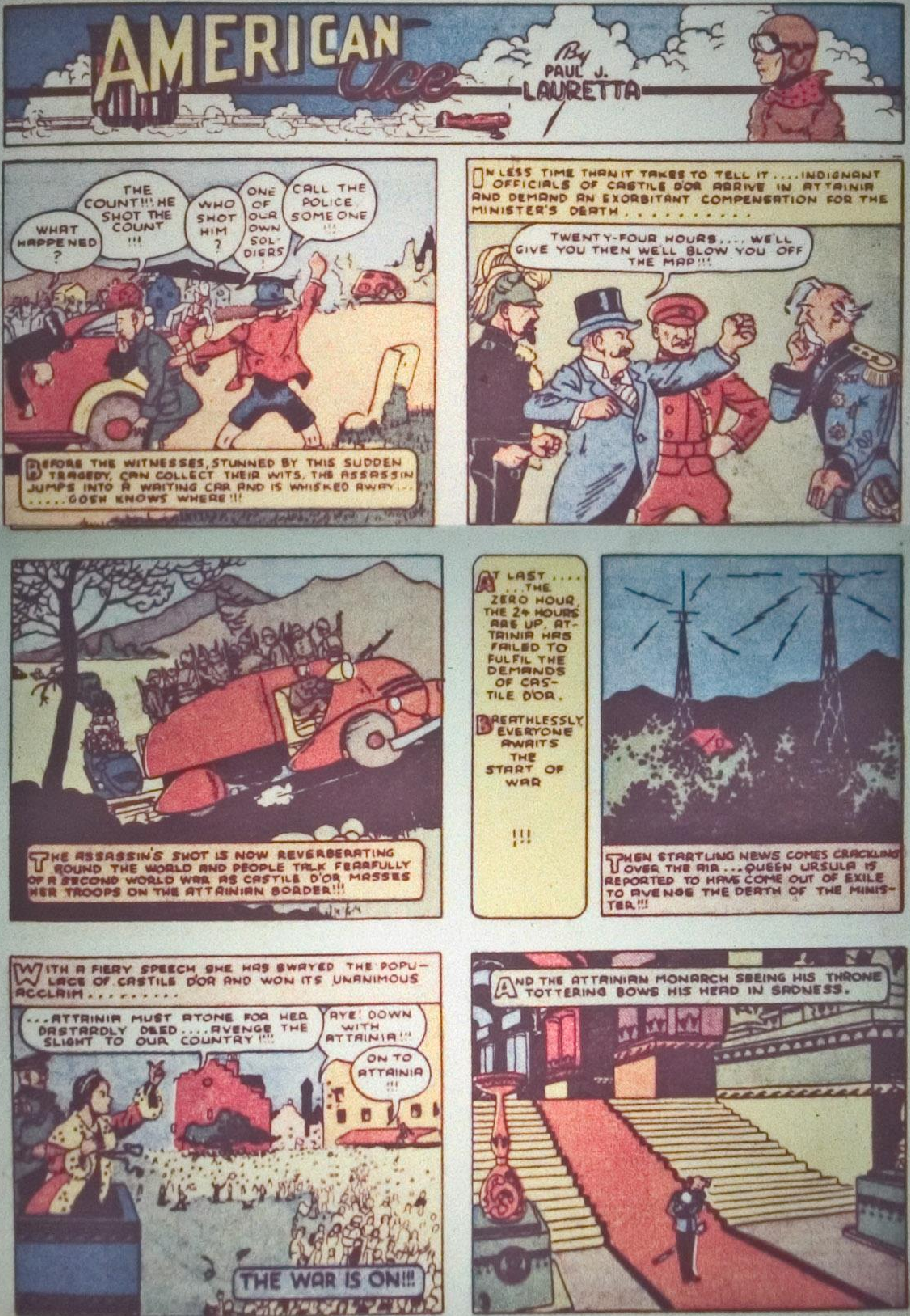

WE WILL ESTABLISH AN EXCUSE. CASTILE D'OR HAS A MINISTER IN ATTAINIA AT PRESENT WHO KNOWS NOTHING OF OUR PLANS ?
YES. YOUR HIGHNESS !!!

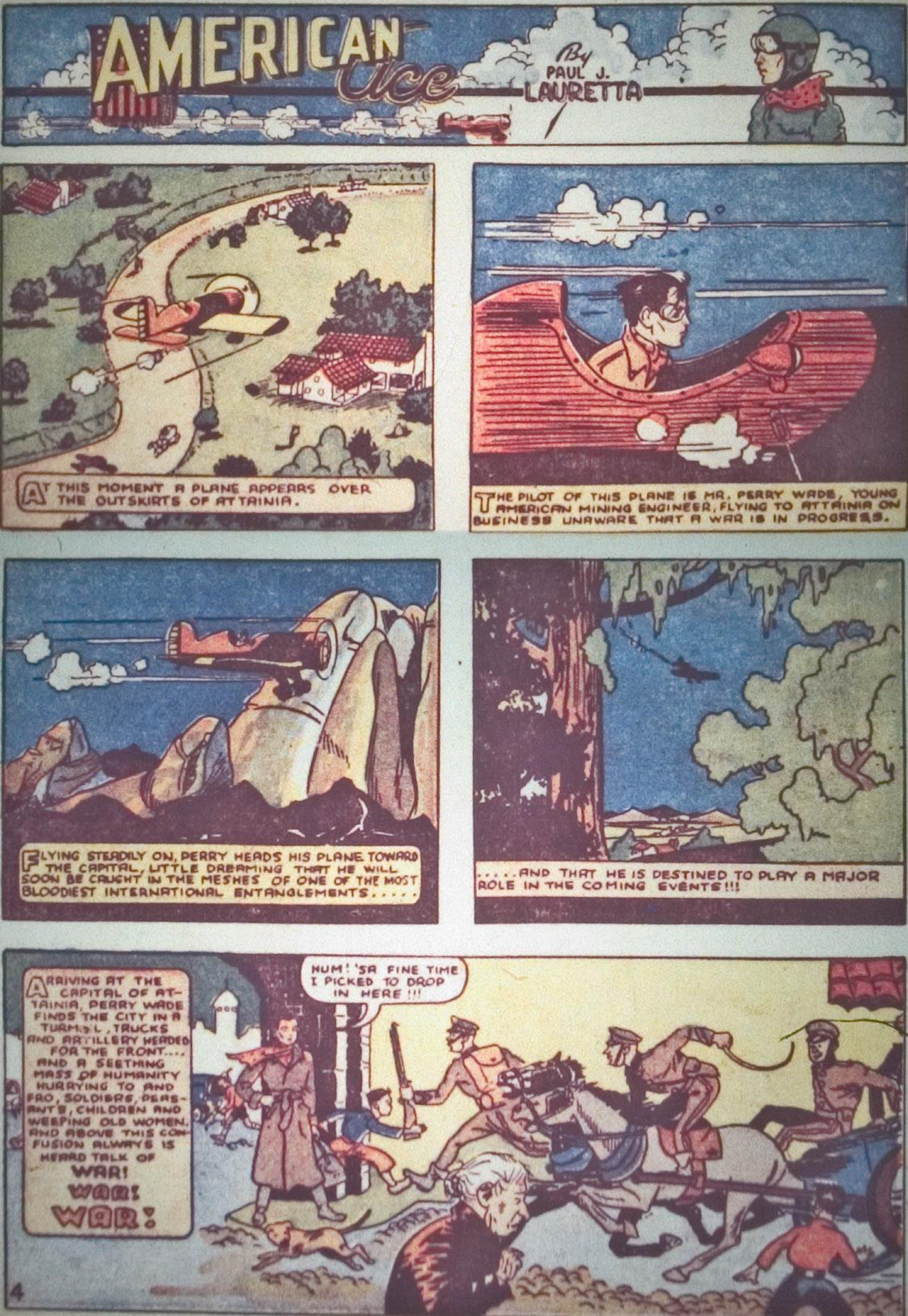

THEN ENGAGE THE SERVICES OF A PROFESSIONAL KILLER AND HAVE HIM ASSASSINATED THERE.....
AH! I SEE THE LIGHT!!! WE'LL MAKE IT LOOK LIKE AN ATTAINIAN CITIZEN SHOT HIM. THEN WE'LL DEMAND COMPENSATION FOR THE BRUTAL MURDER OF OUR BELOVED COUNTRYMAN. IF THEY FAIL TO DO SO WE SHOOT THE WORKS, EH?


YOU GRASP THINGS, QUICKLY, MY DEAR JOSEF. GO NOW AND, REMEMBER, THE UTMOST SECRECY ABOUT MY PRESENCE IN CASTILE D'OR!!!
AND THAT'S THAT..... SO DELIBERATELY, SO COLD BLOODEDLY THIS NEFARIOUS WOMAN HAS ORDERED THE MURDER OF AN INNOCENT MAN TO REACH HER OWN BASE ENDS!!!


A CAR IS COMING DOWN VIA CYPRI IN ATTAINIA. IN IT SITS AN ELDERLY GENTLEMAN, THE MINISTER OF CASTILE D'OR.

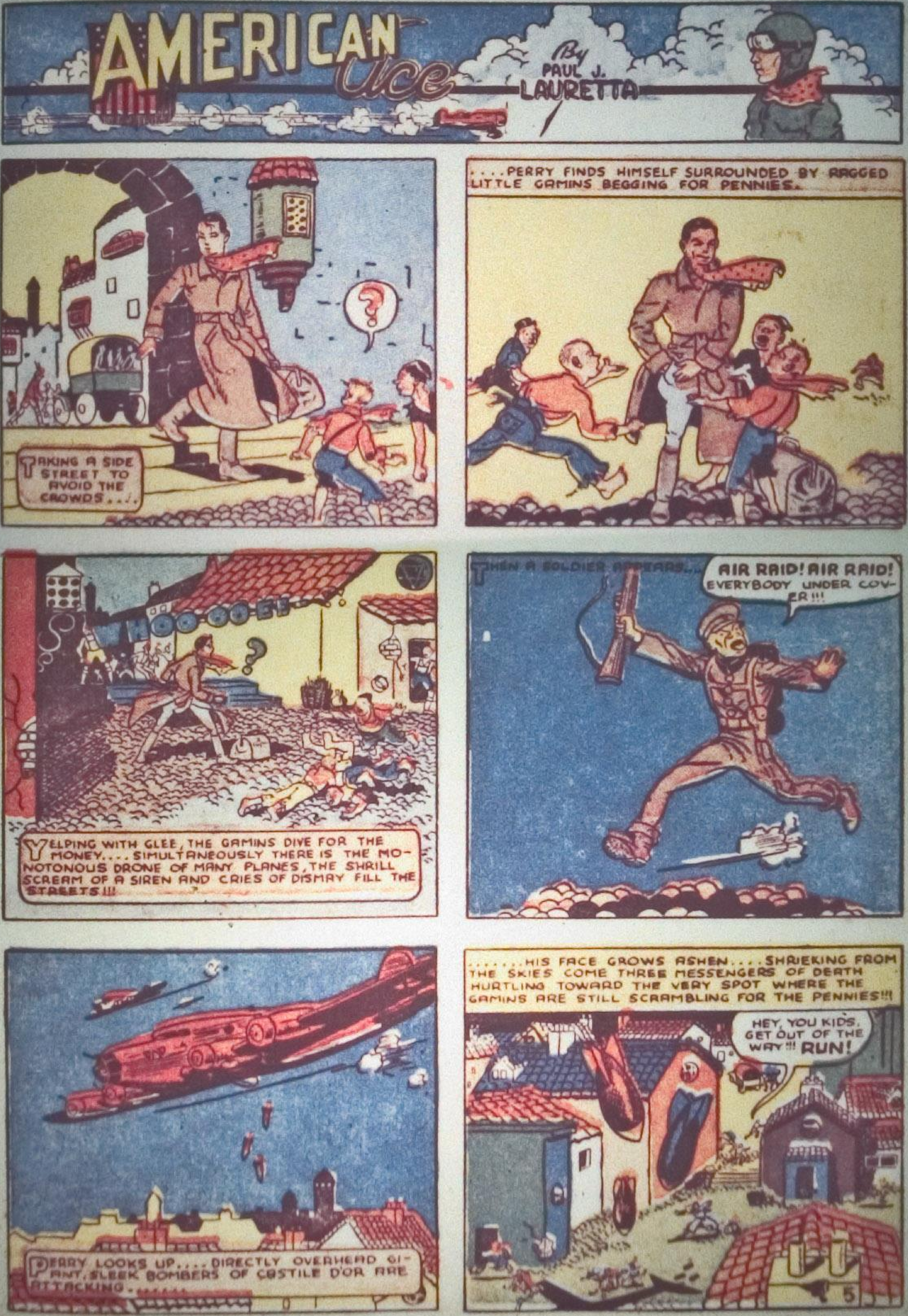

SUDDENLY, A MAN, DRESSED IN THE UNIFORM OF AN ATTAINIAN SOLDIER, LEAPS FROM BEHIND A TREE AND FIRES A SHOT, THAT [illegible] TO ROCK THE DIPLOMATIC WORLD, THROUGH THE MINISTER'S HEART!!!
!

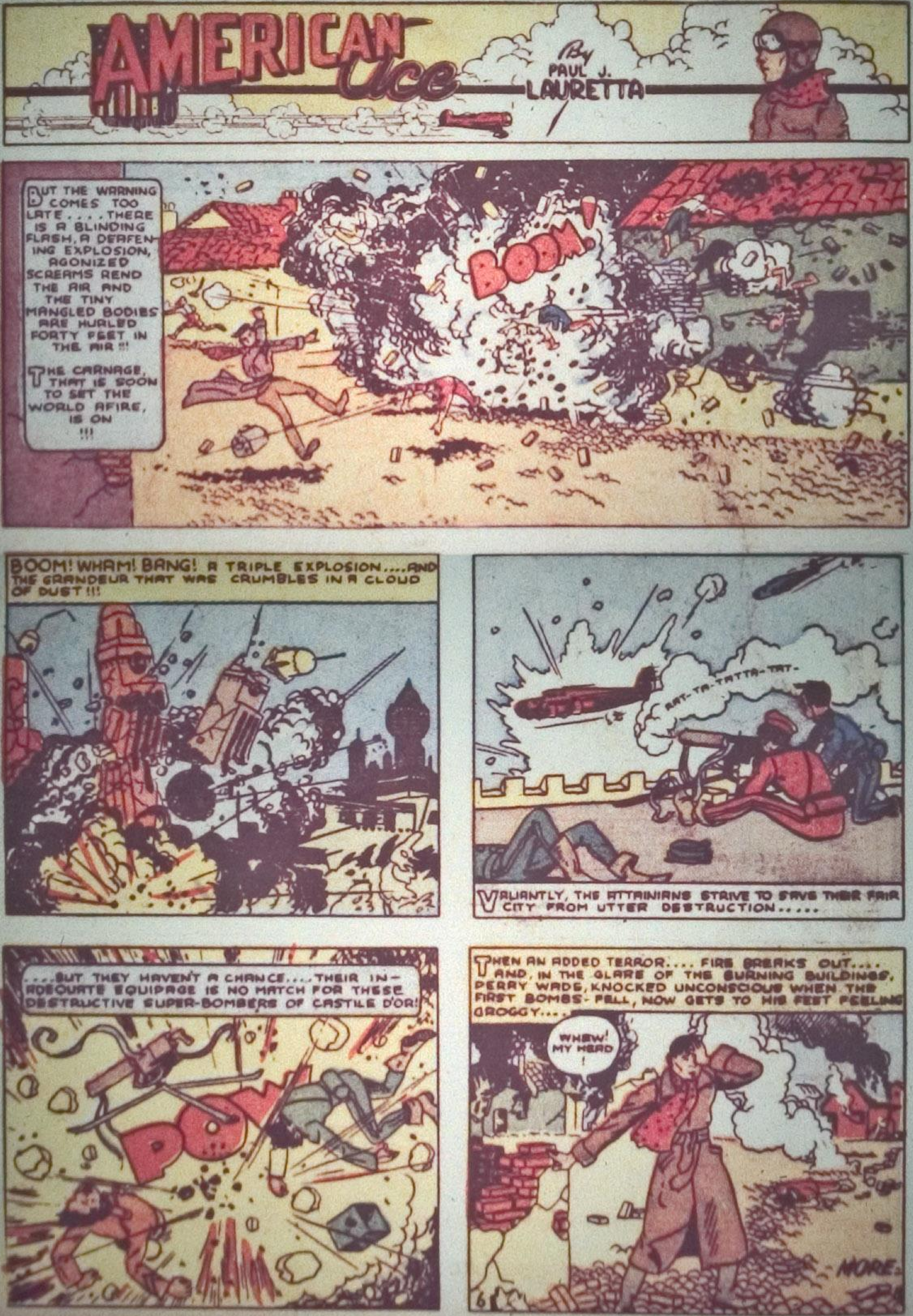

AMERICAN Ace
By PAUL J. LAURETTA
WHAT HAPPENED?
THE COUNT!!! HE SHOT THE COUNT!!!
WHO SHOT HIM?
ONE OF OUR OWN SOLDIERS!
CALL THE POLICE, SOMEONE!!!
BEFORE THE WITNESSES, STUNNED BY THIS SUDDEN TRAGEDY, CAN COLLECT THEIR WITS, THE ASSASSIN JUMPS INTO A WAITING CAR AND IS WHISKED AWAY.......GOSH KNOWS WHERE!!!
IN LESS TIME THAN IT TAKES TO TELL IT....INDIGNANT OFFICIALS OF CASTILE D'OR ARRIVE IN ATTAINIA AND DEMAND AN EXORBITANT COMPENSATION FOR THE MINISTER'S DEATH..........
TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.... WE'LL GIVE YOU THEN WE'LL BLOW YOU OFF THE MAP!!!
THE ASSASSIN'S SHOT IS NOW REVERBERATING ROUND THE WORLD AND PEOPLE TALK FEARFULLY OF A SECOND WORLD WAR AS CASTILE D'OR MASSES HER TROOPS ON THE ATTAINIAN BORDER!!!
AT LAST.... THE ZERO HOUR, THE 24 HOURS ARE UP. ATTAINIA HAS FAILED TO FULFIL THE DEMANDS OF CASTILE D'OR.
BREATHLESSLY, EVERYONE AWAITS THE START OF WAR
!!!
THEN STARTLING NEWS COMES CRACKLING OVER THE AIR...QUEEN URSULA IS REPORTED TO HAVE COME OUT OF EXILE TO AVENGE THE DEATH OF THE MINISTER!!!
WITH A FIERY SPEECH SHE HAS SWAYED THE POPULACE OF CASTILE D'OR AND WON ITS UNANIMOUS ACCLAIM.........
...ATTAINIA MUST ATONE FOR HER DASTARDLY DEED....AVENGE THE SLIGHT TO OUR COUNTRY!!!
AYE! DOWN WITH ATTAINIA!!!
ON TO ATTAINIA!!!
THE WAR IS ON!!!
AND THE ATTAINIAN MONARCH SEEING HIS THRONE TOTTERING BOWS HIS HEAD IN SADNESS.

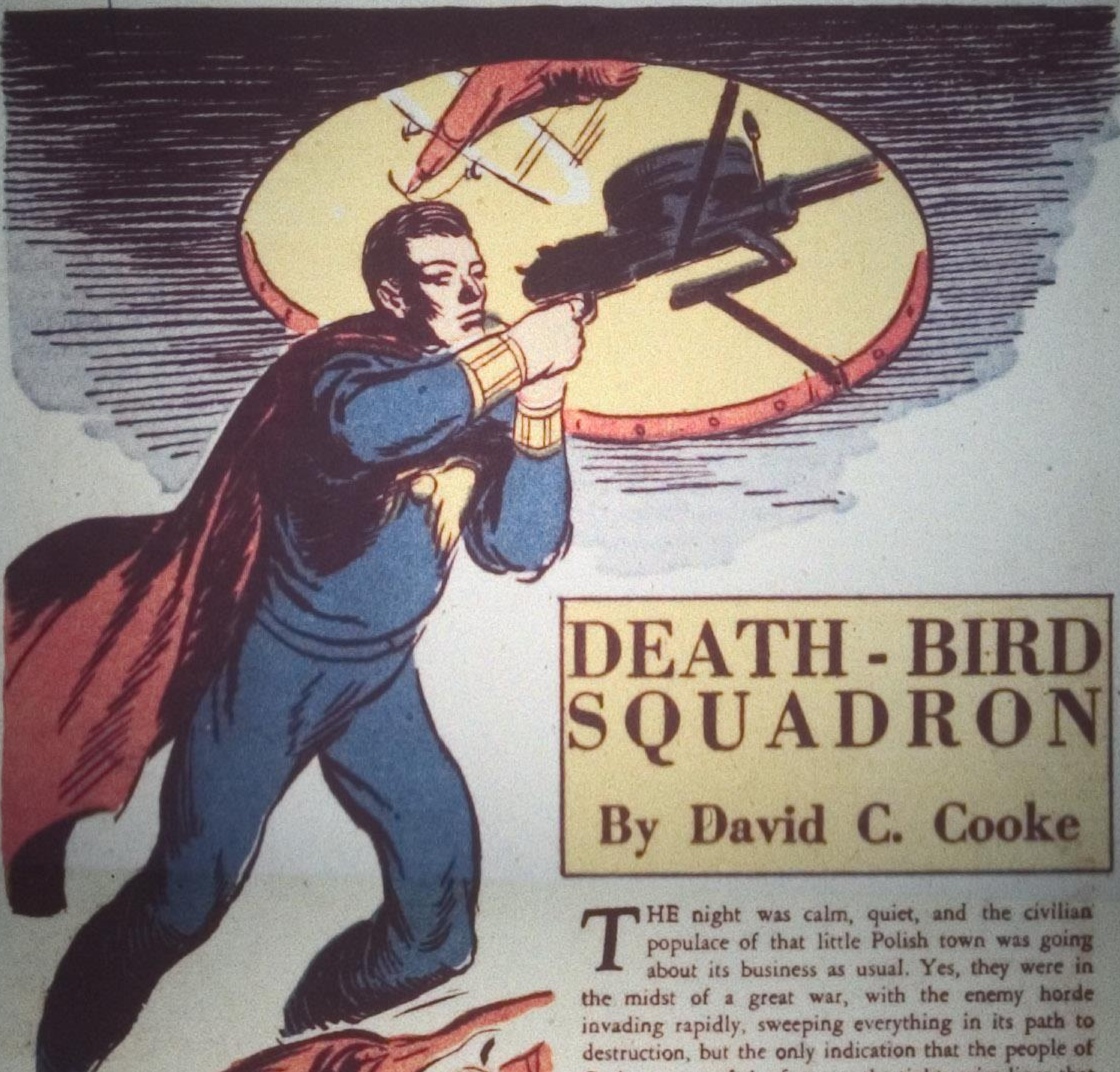

AMERICAN Ace
By PAUL J. LAURETTA
AT THIS MOMENT A PLANE APPEARS OVER THE OUTSKIRTS OF ATTAINIA.
THE PILOT OF THIS PLANE IS MR. PERRY WADE, YOUNG AMERICAN MINING ENGINEER, FLYING TO ATTAINIA ON BUSINESS UNAWARE THAT A WAR IS IN PROGRESS.
FLYING STEADILY ON, PERRY HEADS HIS PLANE TOWARD THE CAPITAL, LITTLE DREAMING THAT HE WILL SOON BE CAUGHT IN THE MESHES OF ONE OF THE MOST BLOODIEST INTERNATIONAL ENTANGLEMENTS.....
.....AND THAT HE IS DESTINED TO PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THE COMING EVENTS!!!
ARRIVING AT THE CAPITAL OF ATTAINIA, PERRY WADE FINDS THE CITY IN A TURMOIL, TRUCKS AND ARTILLERY HEADED FOR THE FRONT.... AND A SEETHING MASS OF HUMANITY HURRYING TO AND FRO, SOLDIERS, PEASANTS, CHILDREN AND WEEPING OLD WOMEN. AND ABOVE THIS CONFUSION ALWAYS IS HEARD TALK OF
WAR!
WAR!
WAR!
HUM! 'SA FINE TIME I PICKED TO DROP IN HERE!!!

AMERICAN Ace

By PAUL J. LAURETTA


TAKING A SIDE STREET TO AVOID THE CROWDS....
?
....PERRY FINDS HIMSELF SURROUNDED BY RAGGED LITTLE GAMINS BEGGING FOR PENNIES.
WHOO-OO-EE
?
YELPING WITH GLEE, THE GAMINS DIVE FOR THE MONEY.... SIMULTANEOUSLY THERE IS THE MONOTONOUS DRONE OF MANY PLANES, THE SHRILL SCREAM OF A SIREN AND CRIES OF DISMAY FILL THE STREETS!!!
THEN A SOLDIER APPEARS....
AIR RAID! AIR RAID! EVERYBODY UNDER COVER!!!
PERRY LOOKS UP.... DIRECTLY OVERHEAD GIANT, SLEEK BOMBERS OF CASTILE D'OR ARE ATTACKING.......
......HIS FACE GROWS ASHEN....SHRIEKING FROM THE SKIES COME THREE MESSENGERS OF DEATH HURTLING TOWARD THE VERY SPOT WHERE THE GAMINS ARE STILL SCRAMBLING FOR THE PENNIES!!!
HEY, YOU KIDS, GET OUT OF THE WAY!!! RUN!


AMERICAN Ace
By PAUL J. LAURETTA
BUT THE WARNING COMES TOO LATE.... THERE IS A BLINDING FLASH, A DEAFENING EXPLOSION, AGONIZED SCREAMS REND THE AIR AND THE TINY MANGLED BODIES ARE HURLED FORTY FEET IN THE AIR!!!
THE CARNAGE, THAT IS SOON TO SET THE WORLD AFIRE, IS ON!!!
BOOM!
BOOM! WHAM! BANG! A TRIPLE EXPLOSION....AND THE GRANDEUR THAT WAS CRUMBLES IN A CLOUD OF DUST!!!
RAT-TA-TATTA-TAT-
VALIANTLY, THE ATTAINIANS STRIVE TO SAVE THEIR FAIR CITY FROM UTTER DESTRUCTION.....
....BUT THEY HAVEN'T A CHANCE....THEIR INADEQUATE EQUIPAGE IS NO MATCH FOR THESE DESTRUCTIVE SUPER-BOMBERS OF CASTILE D'OR!
POW
THEN AN ADDED TERROR.... FIRE BREAKS OUT.... AND, IN THE GLARE OF THE BURNING BUILDINGS, PERRY WADE, KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS WHEN THE FIRST BOMBS FELL, NOW GETS TO HIS FEET FEELING GROGGY....
WHEW! MY HEAD!
MORE



DEATH - BIRD SQUADRON

By David C. Cooke

THE night was calm, quiet, and the civilian populace of that little Polish town was going about its business as usual. Yes, they were in the midst of a great war, with the enemy horde invading rapidly, sweeping everything in its path to destruction, but the only indication that the people of Grybow gave of the fact was the tight, grim lines that marked their pale faces.

And then the stillness of the night was shattered by the blasting of the air-raid claxons. The shrill, deep, tinny voice of the siren blasted as if in agony, and instantly the town was plunged into darkness. Madly the civilians dashed for cover, filling every basement and bomb-shelter to overflowing. And then the streets were deserted, devoid of all human life . . . except for a blue-clad figure that walked silently and unhurriedly along the side-streets. It was the "Angel," and once more he was on the prowl in his never-ending campaign to wipe the international war-mongers from the face of the earth.

Giant bombers versus the Angel's love of peace! How can he hope to win?

WITH a great wail of wide-open Jumbo engines, the squadron of death-dealers appeared over the city, their jet-black wings looking like evil birds of prey. And then the bombs began to drop. They fell silently, swiftly, toward the unprotected city below.

B-r-r-oom! B-r-r-oom! The eggs from the death-birds struck full blast in the midst of the city. The detonation of the bombs was terrific; was enough to burst the ear-drums of anyone who might be in the streets. But the Angel had anticipated that, and long before the first bombs had dropped, he had flexed his lithe muscles, and had bounded lightly to the top of the highest building in sight.

And as the closest junkers bomber loomed directly overhead, the Angel again bent low, put his mighty arms behind him. With a rapid calculation of the speed and height of the plane, the Angel threw his arms forward, pushed downwards with his powerful legs at the same time.

He sped through the black of the night with the speed of a high-caliber bullet. Closer, ever closer, he travelled toward that massive plane. And then he grasped it! The Angel's nimble, but strong, fingers closed tightly around one of the wheel-pants on the leading bomber.

He held on grimly, the slip-stream blasting around his body like the breath of some ancient monster, trying to throw him off, to hurl him to earth in a shapeless mass. But those powerful fingers closed more tightly, and the Angel slowly raised himself to a sitting position on the pant. Then he began to climb over the wing, holding tightly to the leading edge, toward the fuselage.

At the wing-root he again paused, took a lungfull of strength-giving air, and then smashed his fist through the metal skin of the flying monster!

"Gott in Himmel!" came a startled cry from inside the plane. "Donnerwetter! Was ist das?"

"Just this!" answered the Angel, picking up the pilot and throwing him straight at the figure of the gunner. The two men fell silently to the floor of the bomber, their skulls crushed like egg-shells.

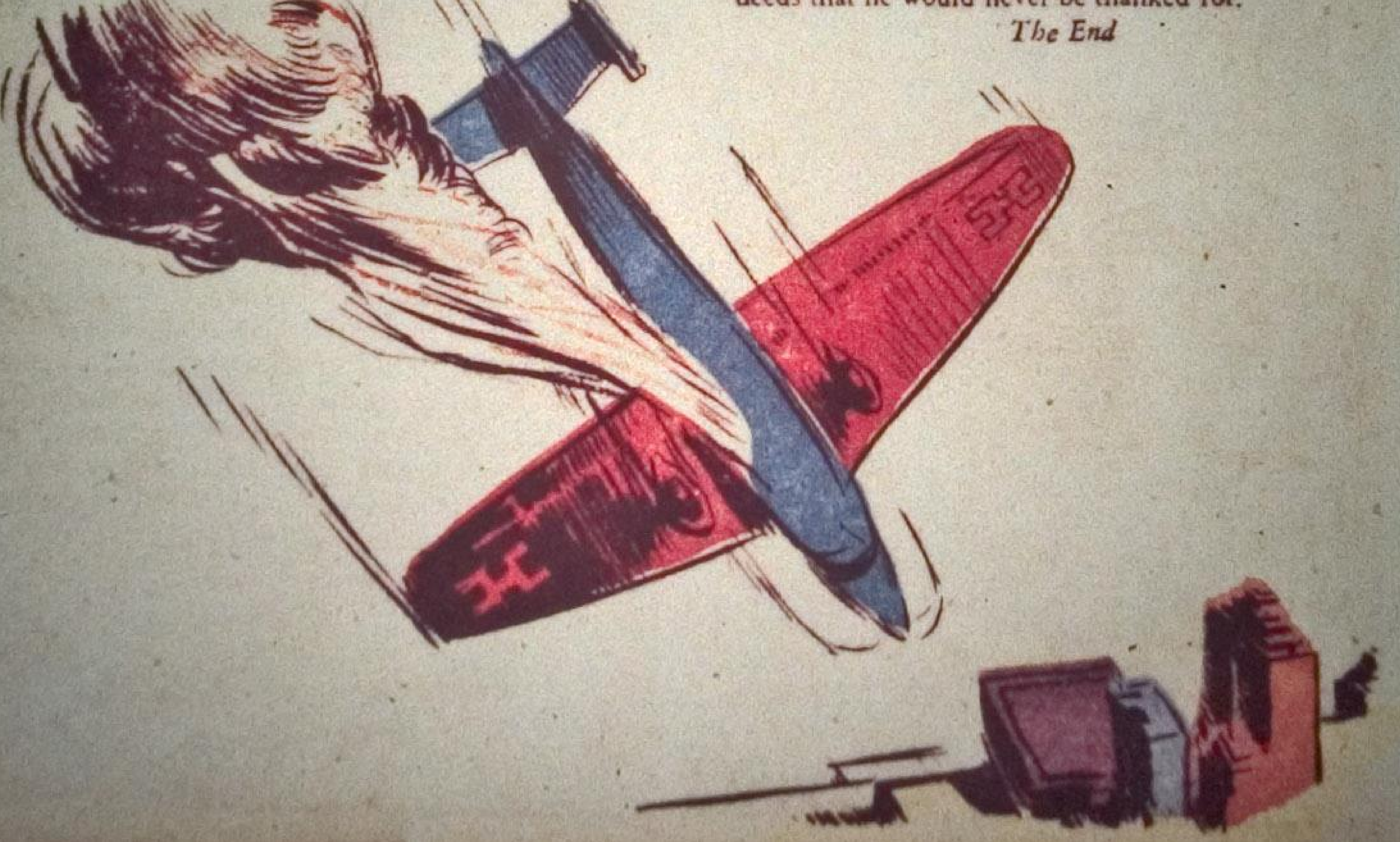
The Angel then threw their bodies aside, grabbed the Spandau machine-gun in the turret, and swung its muzzle toward the nearest ship. The rat-t-t-t-tat of the bullets could scarcely be heard over the sound of the mighty engines, but the bomber he was firing at suddenly nosed up, burst into scarlet flames, and started to spin grotesquely toward the ground. There was a machine directly beneath the doomed bomber, and the two exploded in a roaring flash as they collided in mid-air.

Then the Angel pointed the nose of his ship toward the remaining enemy bomber. He locked his controls into position, and then jumped just before the whirling prop in the nose of his junkers smashed full-blast into the wing of the other ship.

The Angel's cape waved blood-red behind his blue-clad figure as he hurtled through the air and landed easily on the street below, and vividly matched the crimson of the two interlocked ships that were slowly swirling down the sky going into a tight spin from which they would never recover.

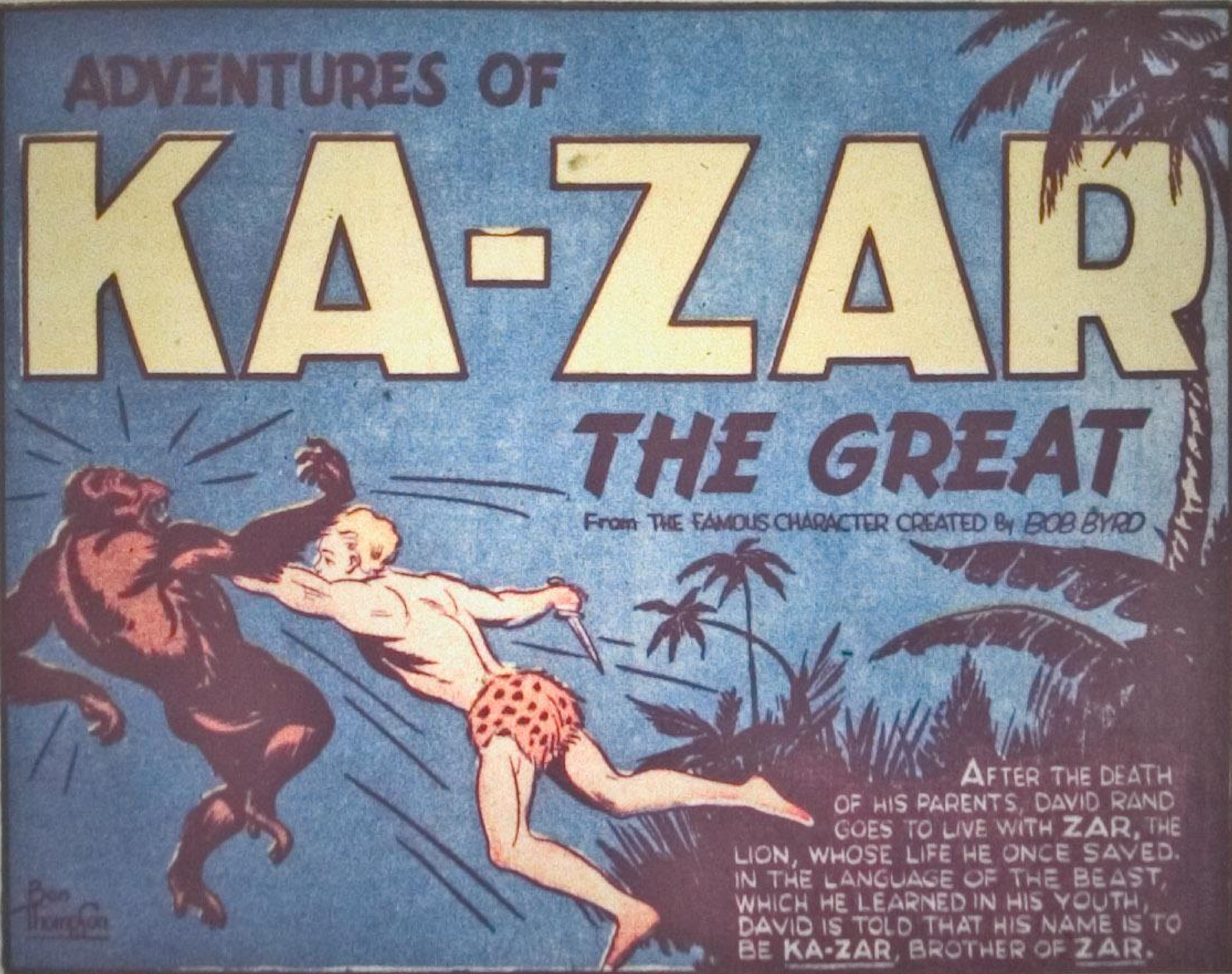
People were now staring amazedly at the vacant sky above, wondering what had happened to the ships that had been raining death upon them. But the Angel smiled; he knew that this was just another feather in his cap that the world would never know about. He knew that this was just another one of his heroic deeds that he would never be thanked for.

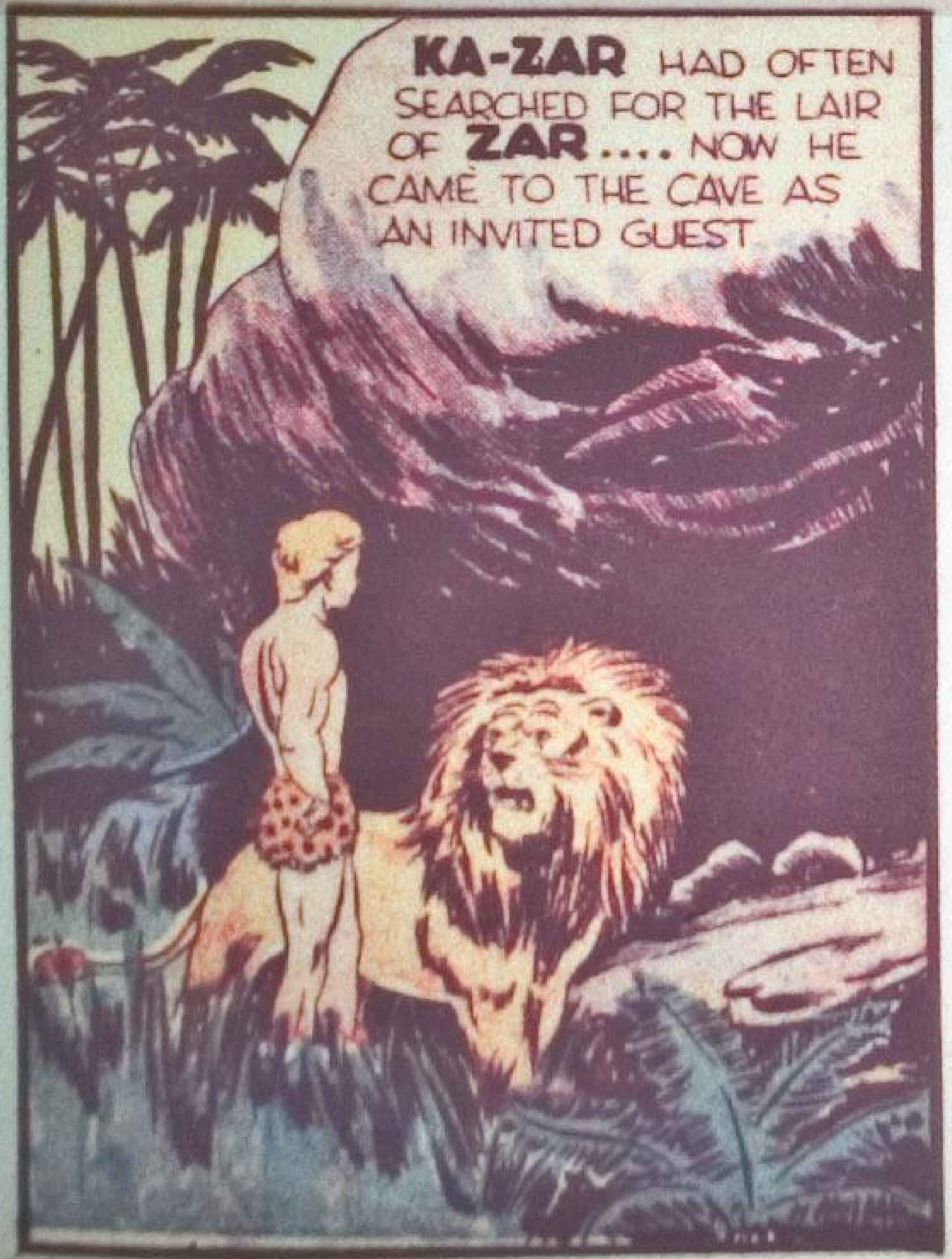
The End

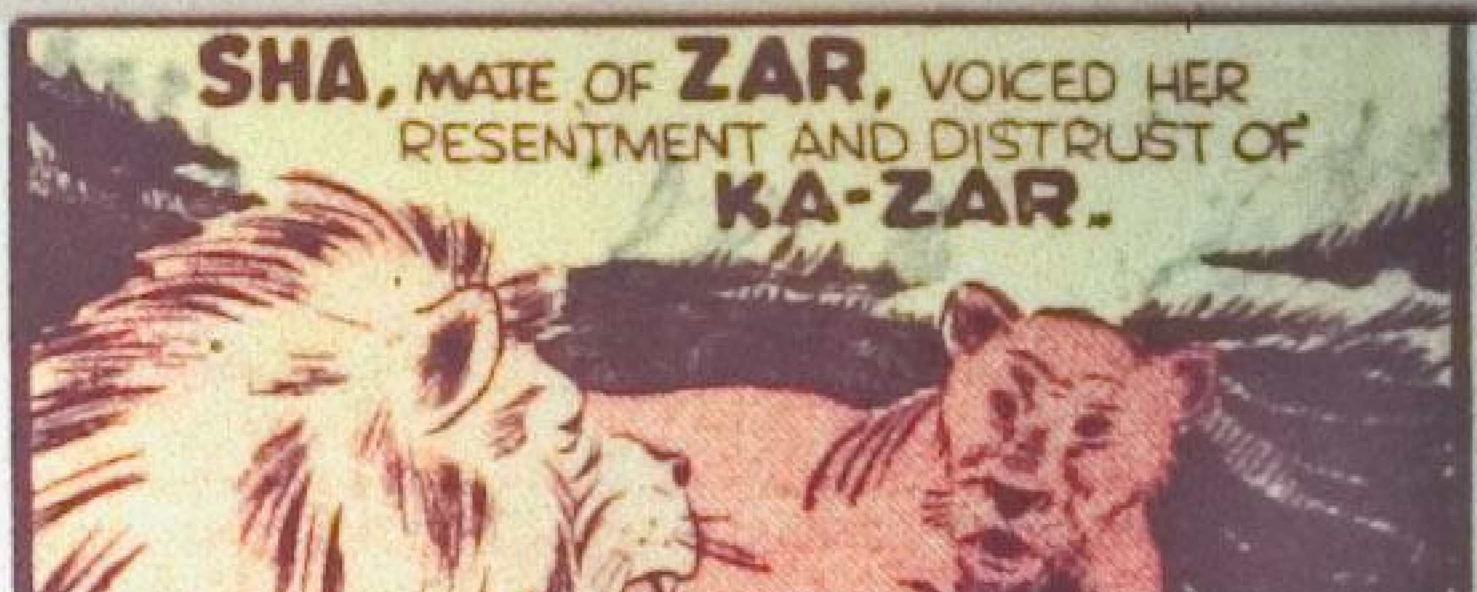


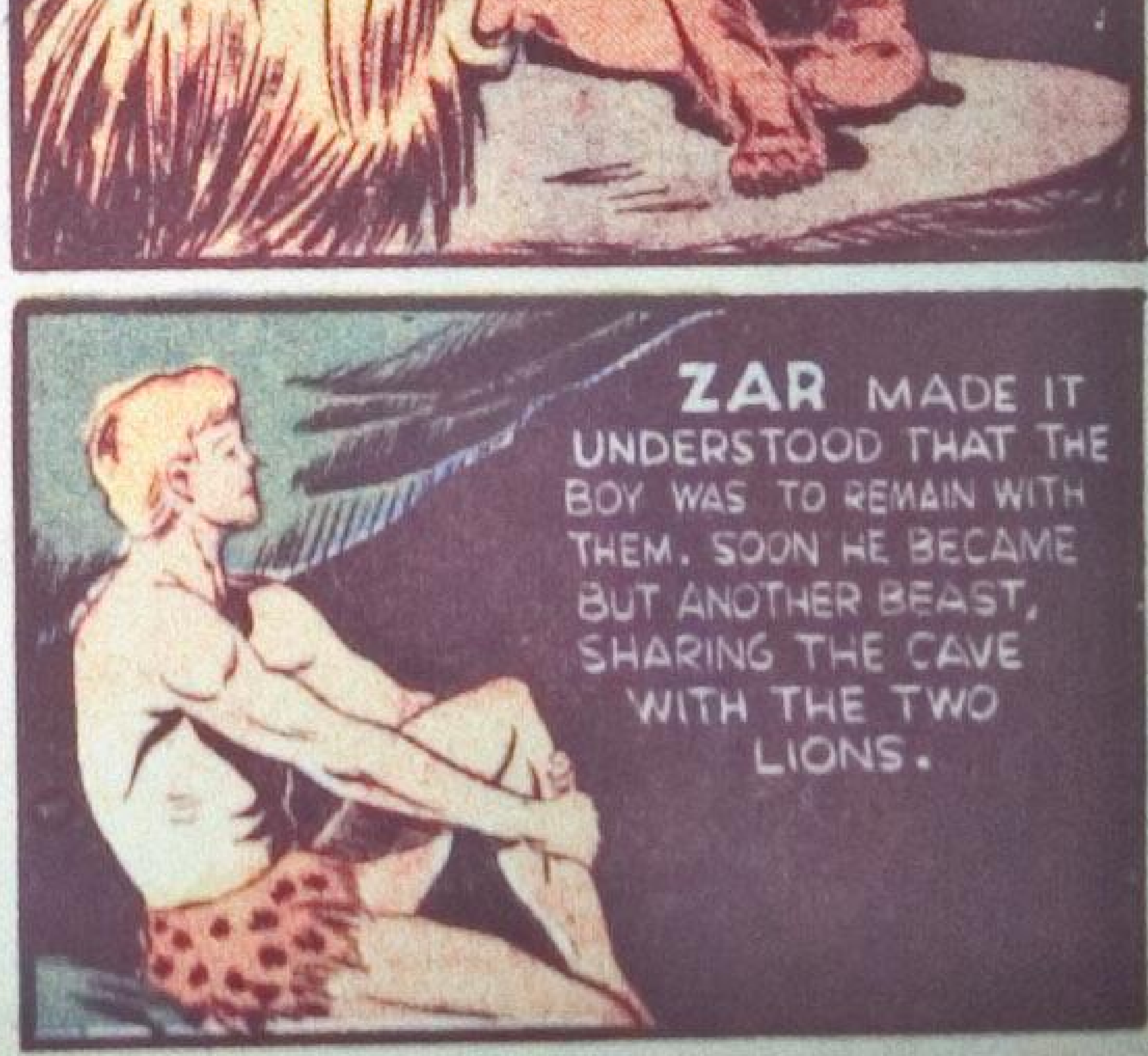
ADVENTURES OF KA-ZAR THE GREAT

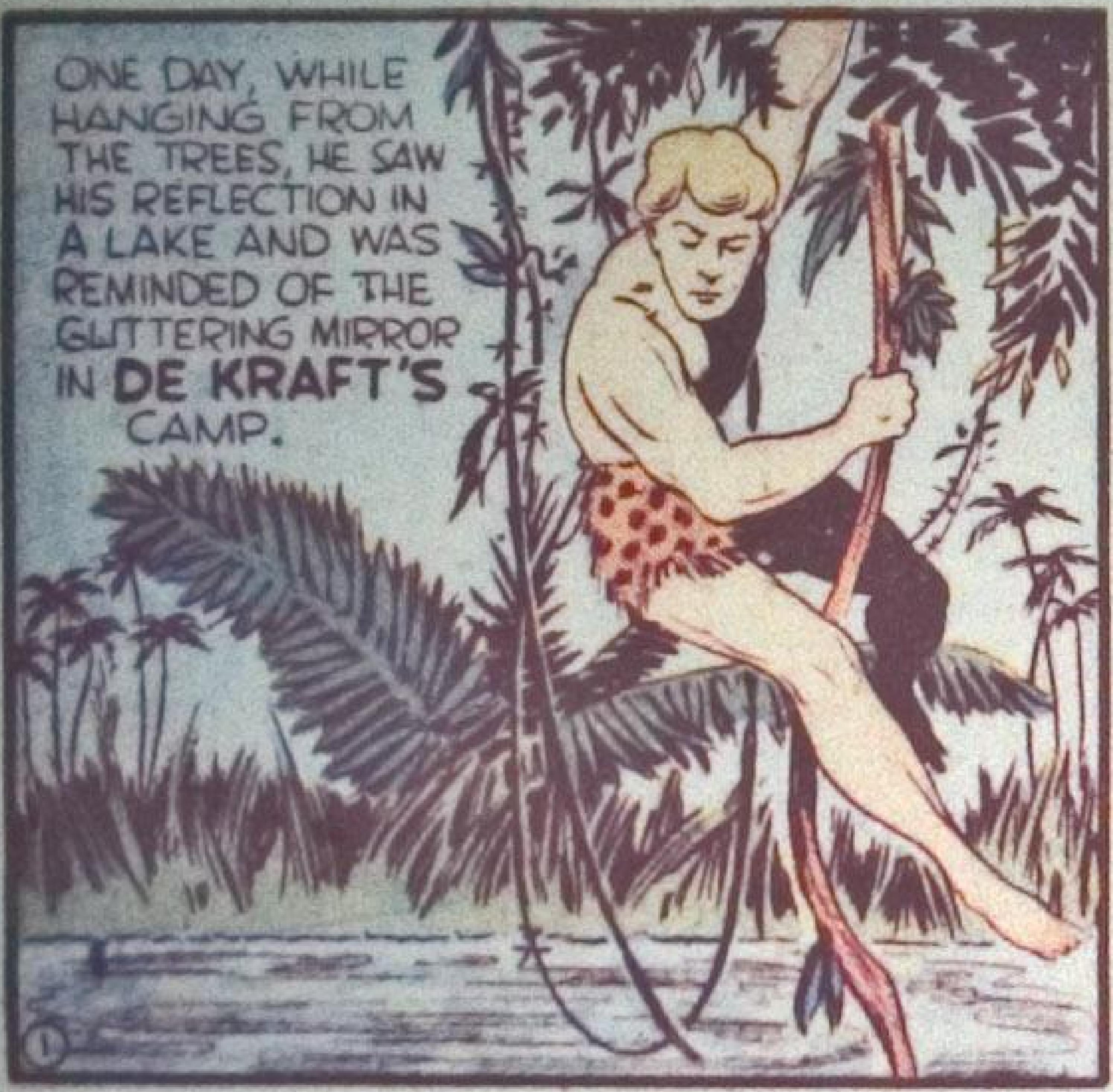
From THE FAMOUS CHARACTER CREATED By BOB BYRD


AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS PARENTS, DAVID RAND GOES TO LIVE WITH ZAR, THE LION, WHOSE LIFE HE ONCE SAVED. IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE BEAST, WHICH HE LEARNED IN HIS YOUTH, DAVID IS TOLD THAT HIS NAME IS TO BE KA-ZAR, BROTHER OF ZAR.
Ben Thompson


KA-ZAR HAD OFTEN SEARCHED FOR THE LAIR OF ZAR.... NOW HE CAME TO THE CAVE AS AN INVITED GUEST

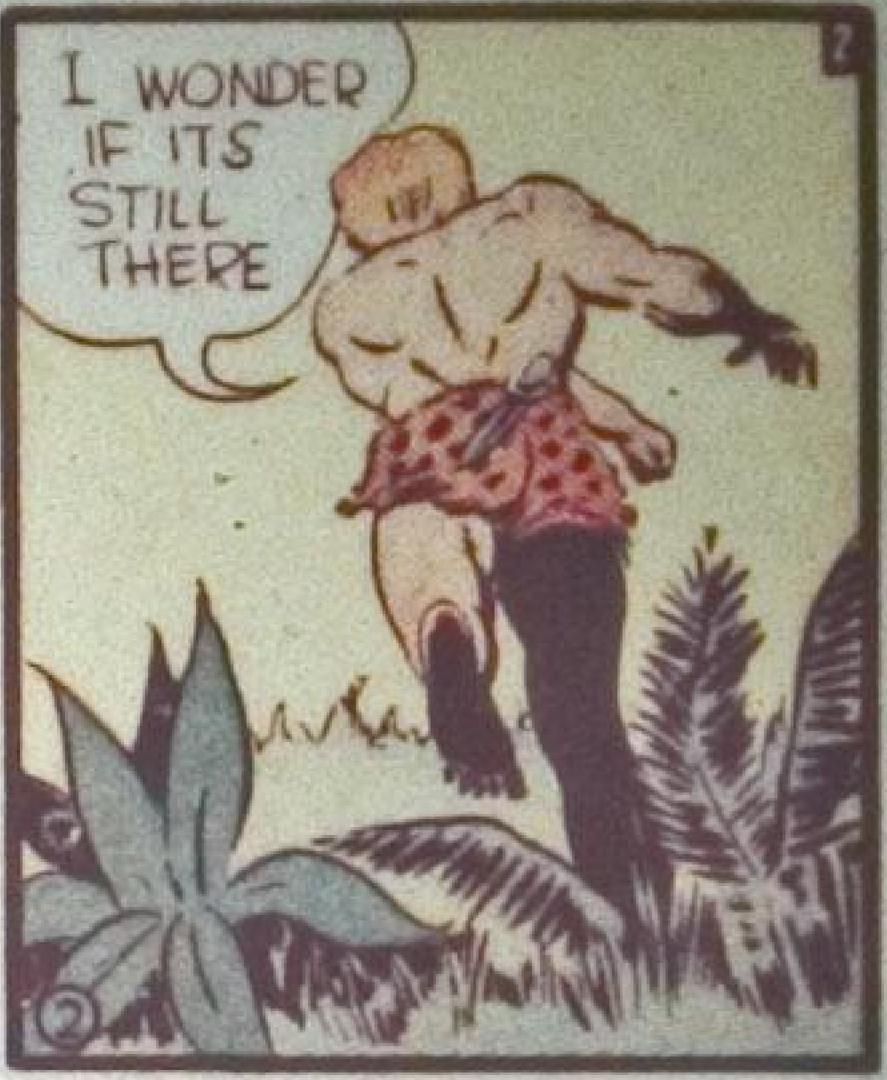

SHA, MATE OF ZAR, VOICED HER RESENTMENT AND DISTRUST OF KA-ZAR.

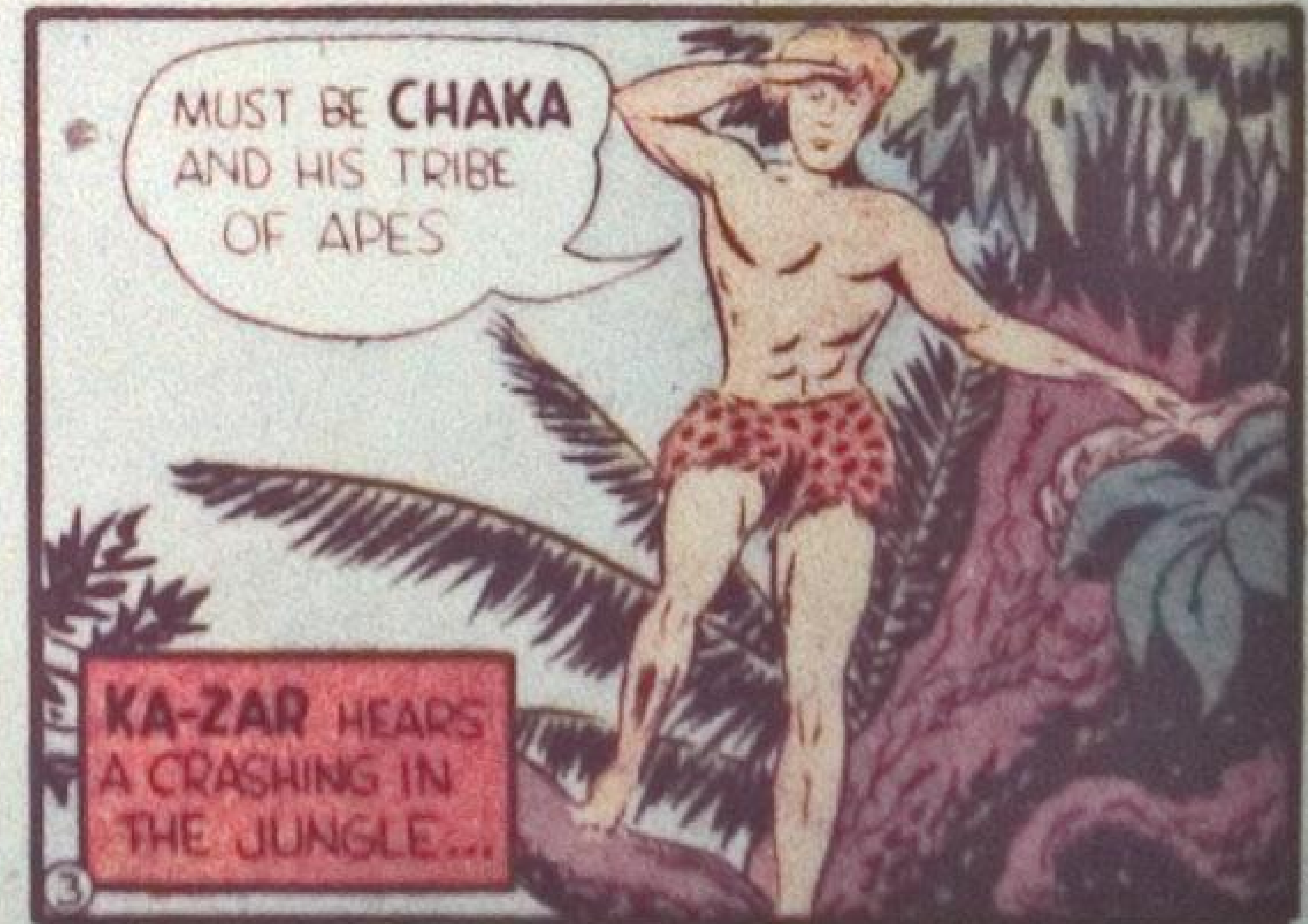

ZAR MADE IT UNDERSTOOD THAT THE BOY WAS TO REMAIN WITH THEM. SOON HE BECAME BUT ANOTHER BEAST, SHARING THE CAVE WITH THE TWO LIONS.

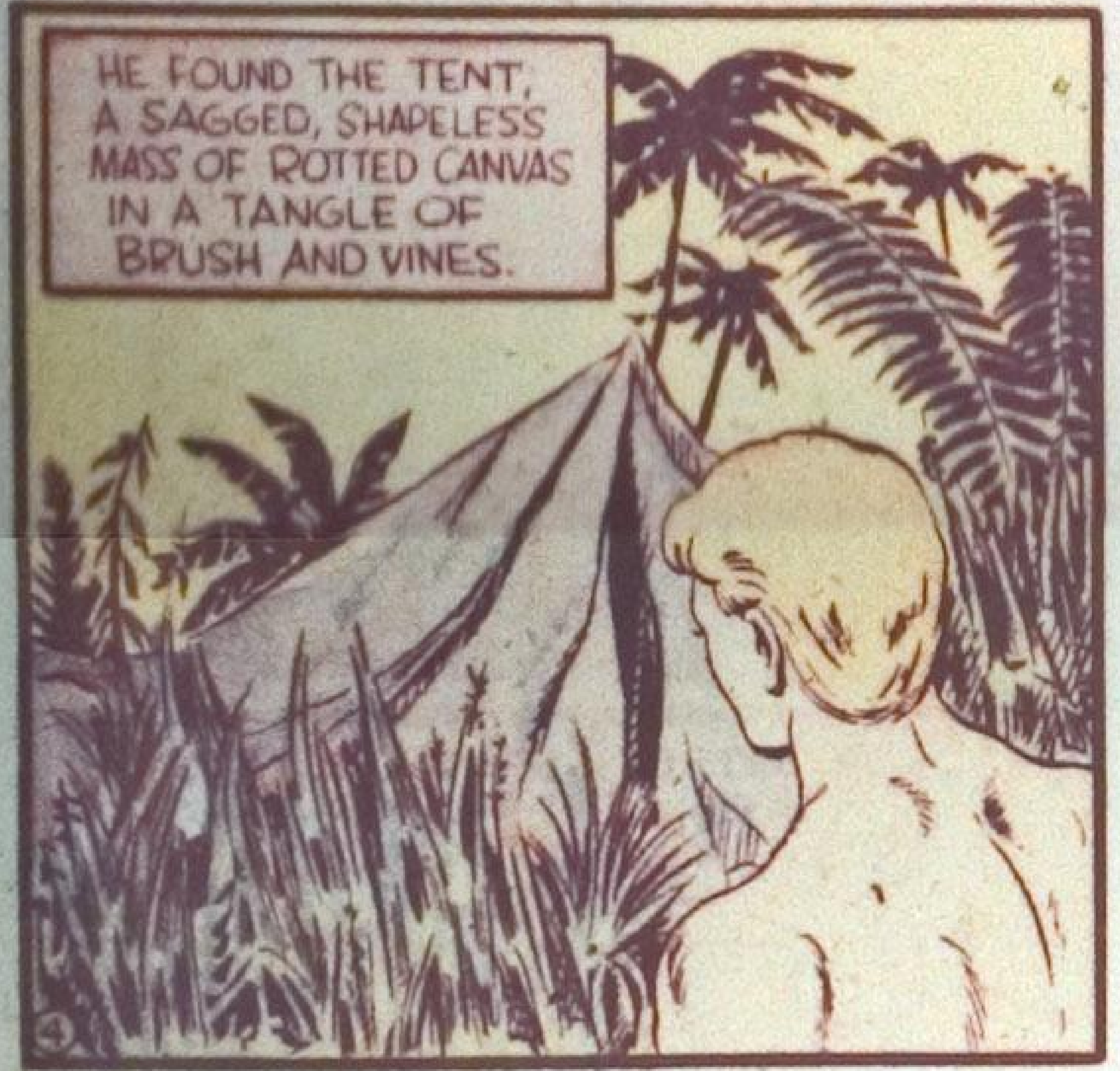

ONE DAY, WHILE HANGING FROM THE TREES, HE SAW HIS REFLECTION IN A LAKE AND WAS REMINDED OF THE GLITTERING MIRROR IN **DE KRAFT'S** CAMP.
①

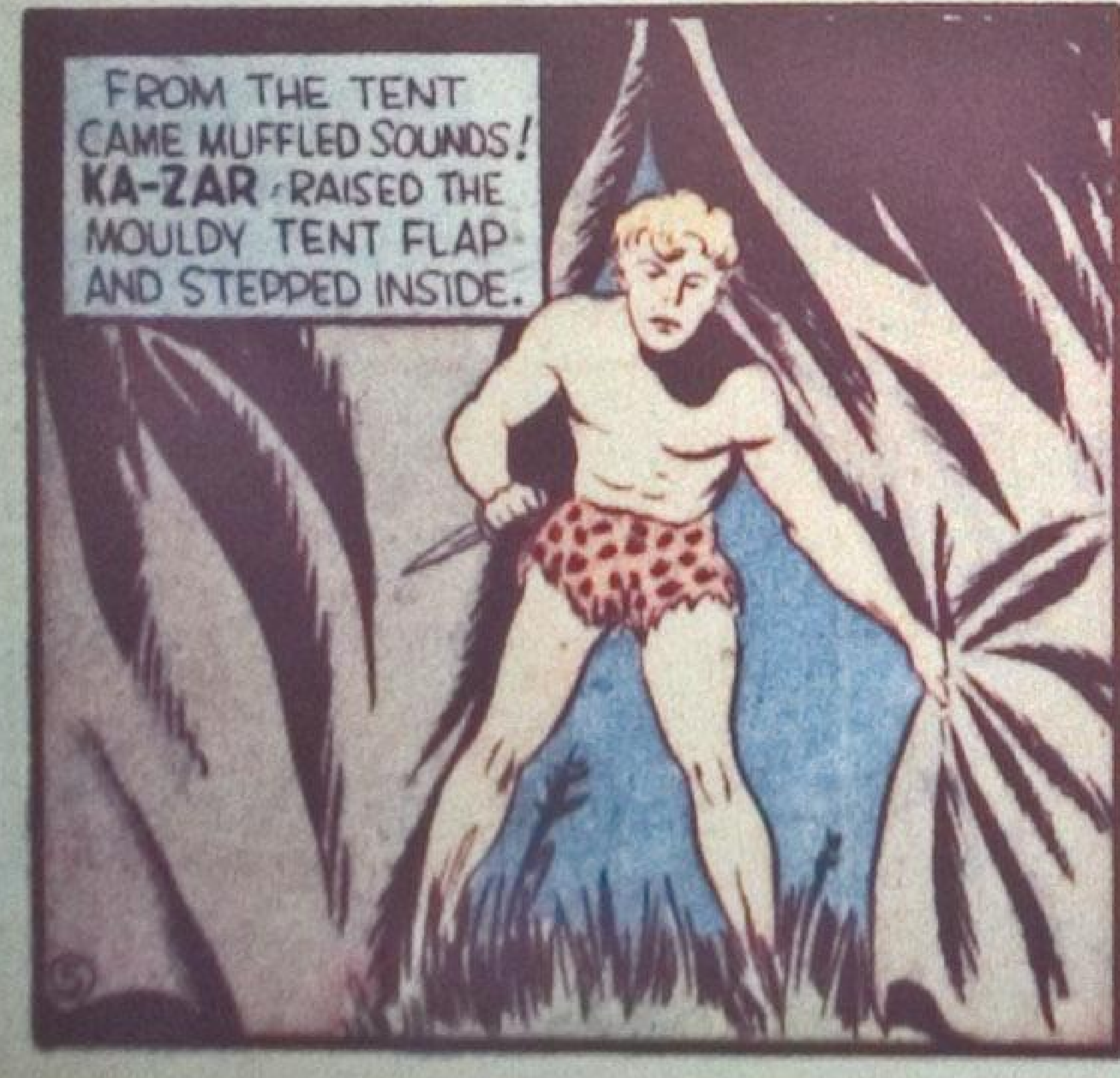
IN HIS HASTE TO LEAVE THE JUNGLE AFTER **ZAR** HAD KILLED TWO OF HIS NATIVES, THE EVIL **DE KRAFT** ABANDONED HIS TENT AND CAMP EQUIPMENT.

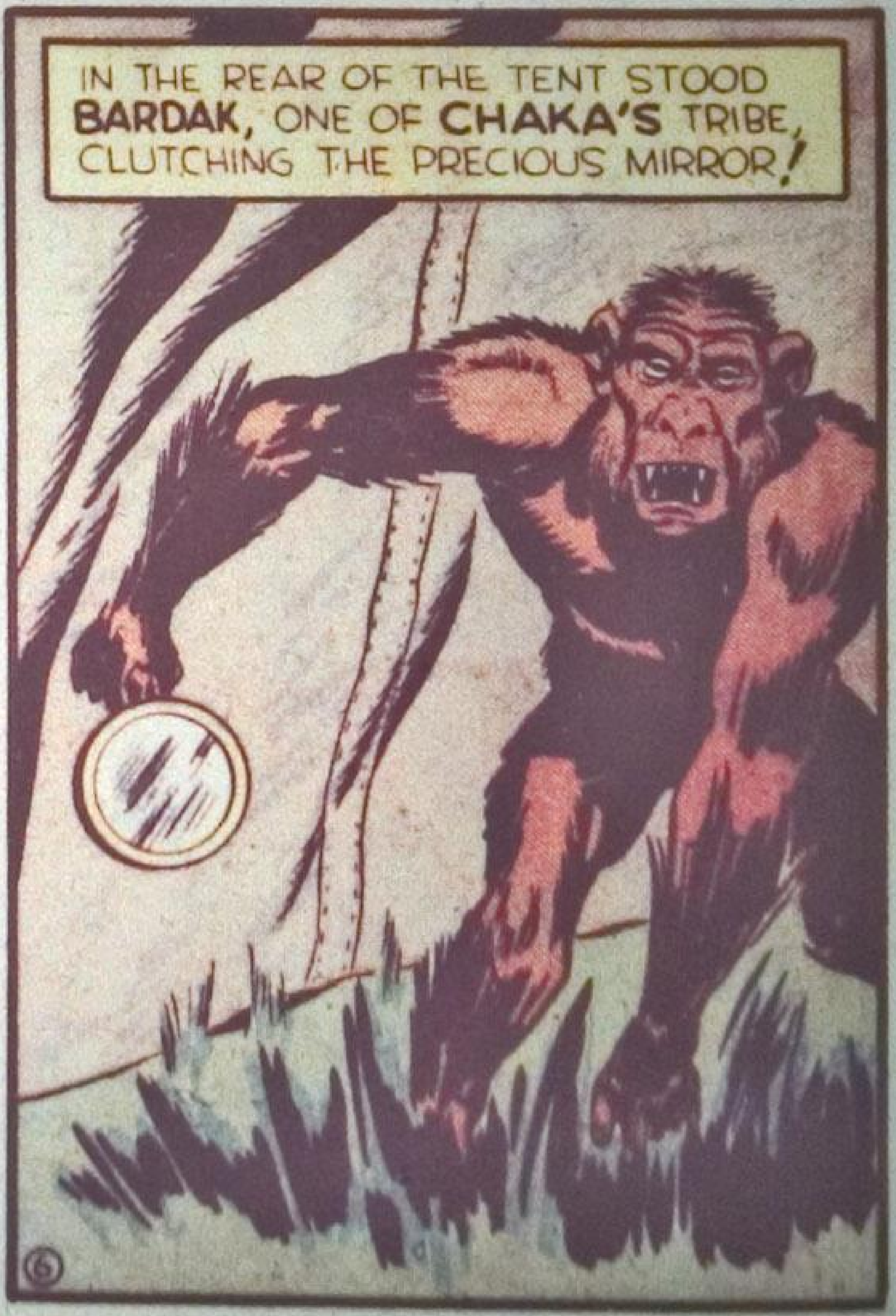
KA-ZAR DASHES OFF TO GET THE MIRROR.

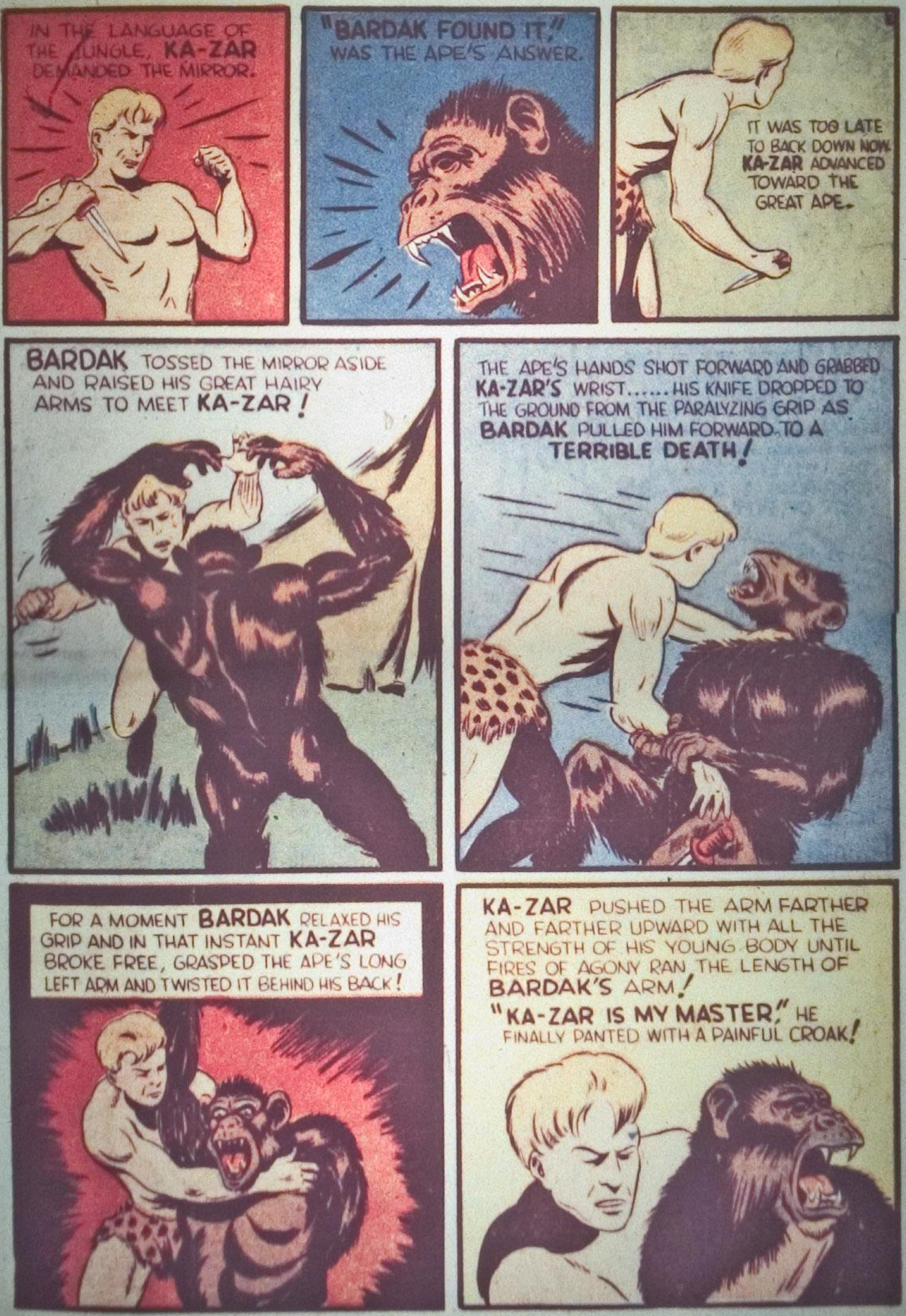

I WONDER IF ITS STILL THERE
②

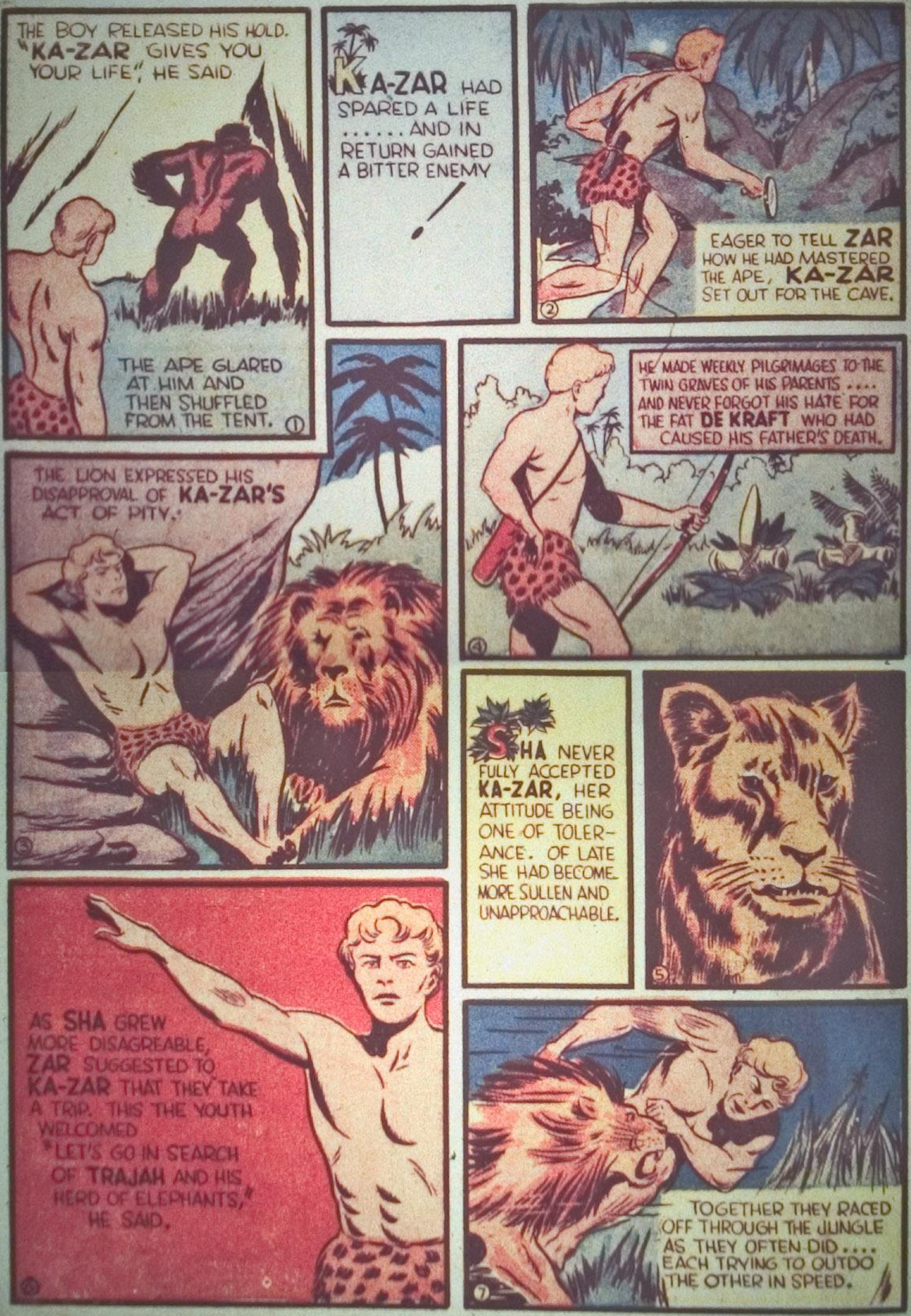

MUST BE **CHAKA** AND HIS TRIBE OF APES
KA-ZAR HEARS A CRASHING IN THE JUNGLE...
③

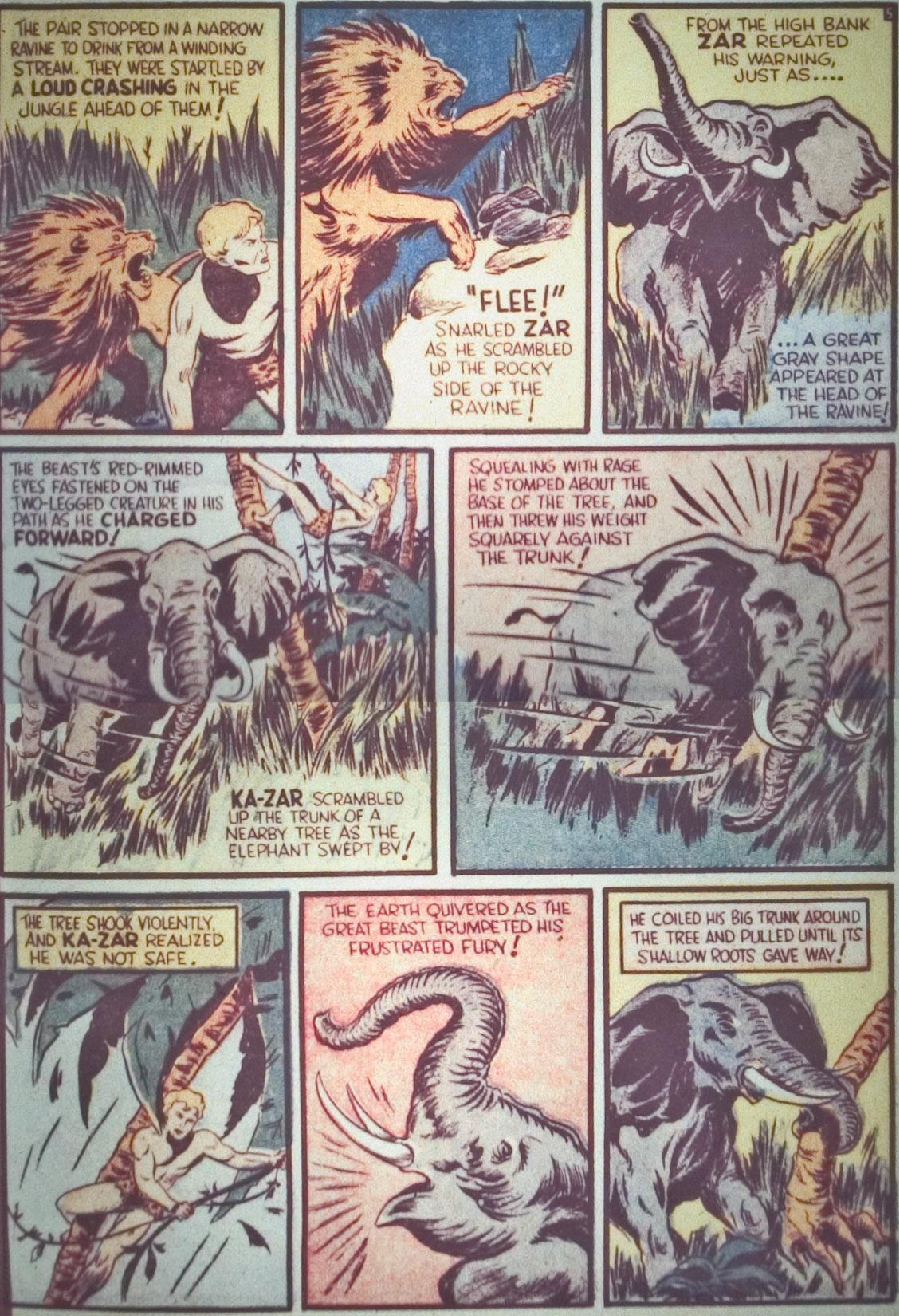

HE FOUND THE TENT, A SAGGED, SHAPELESS MASS OF ROTTED CANVAS IN A TANGLE OF BRUSH AND VINES.
④

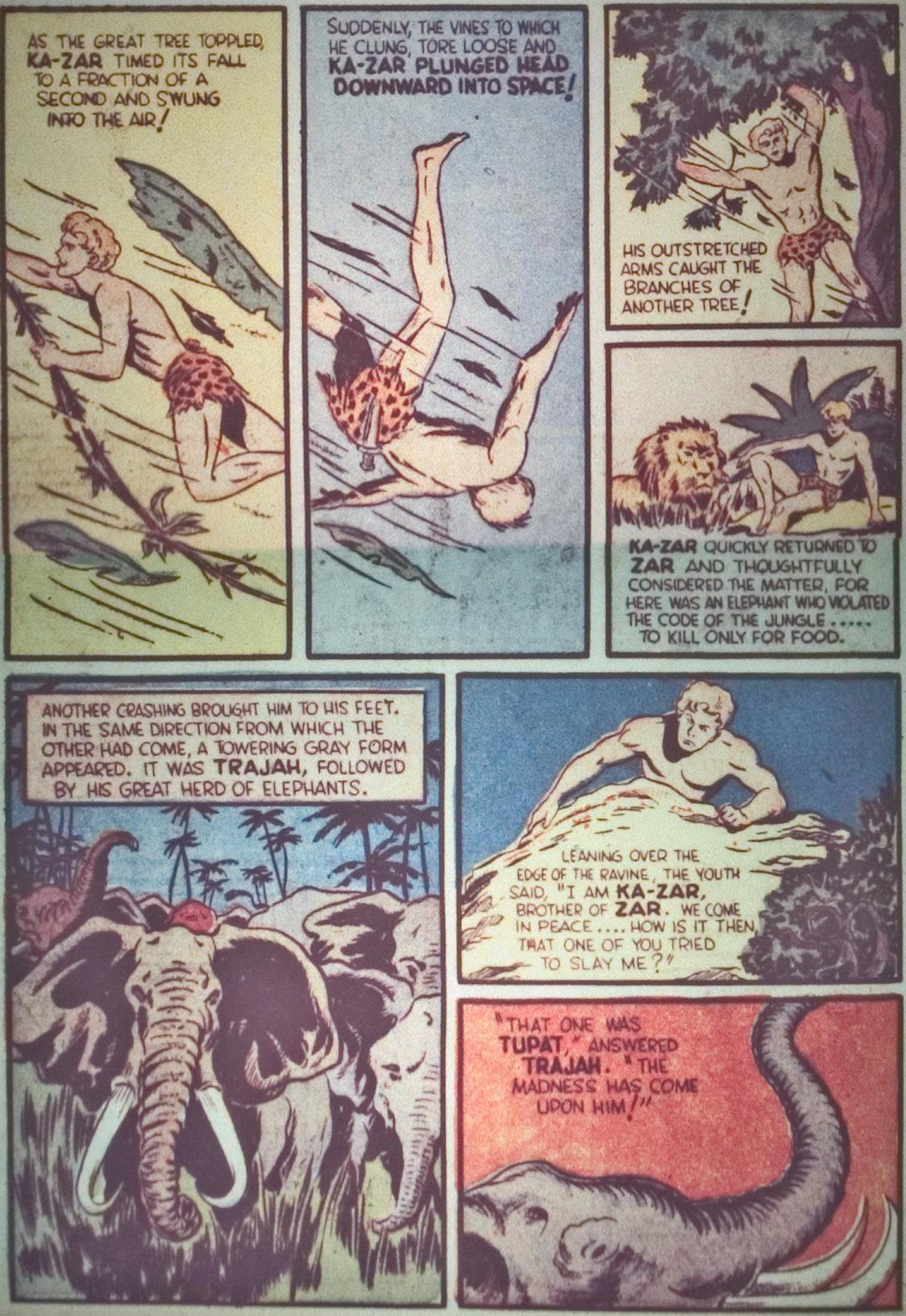

FROM THE TENT CAME MUFFLED SOUNDS! **KA-ZAR** RAISED THE MOULDY TENT FLAP AND STEPPED INSIDE.
⑤

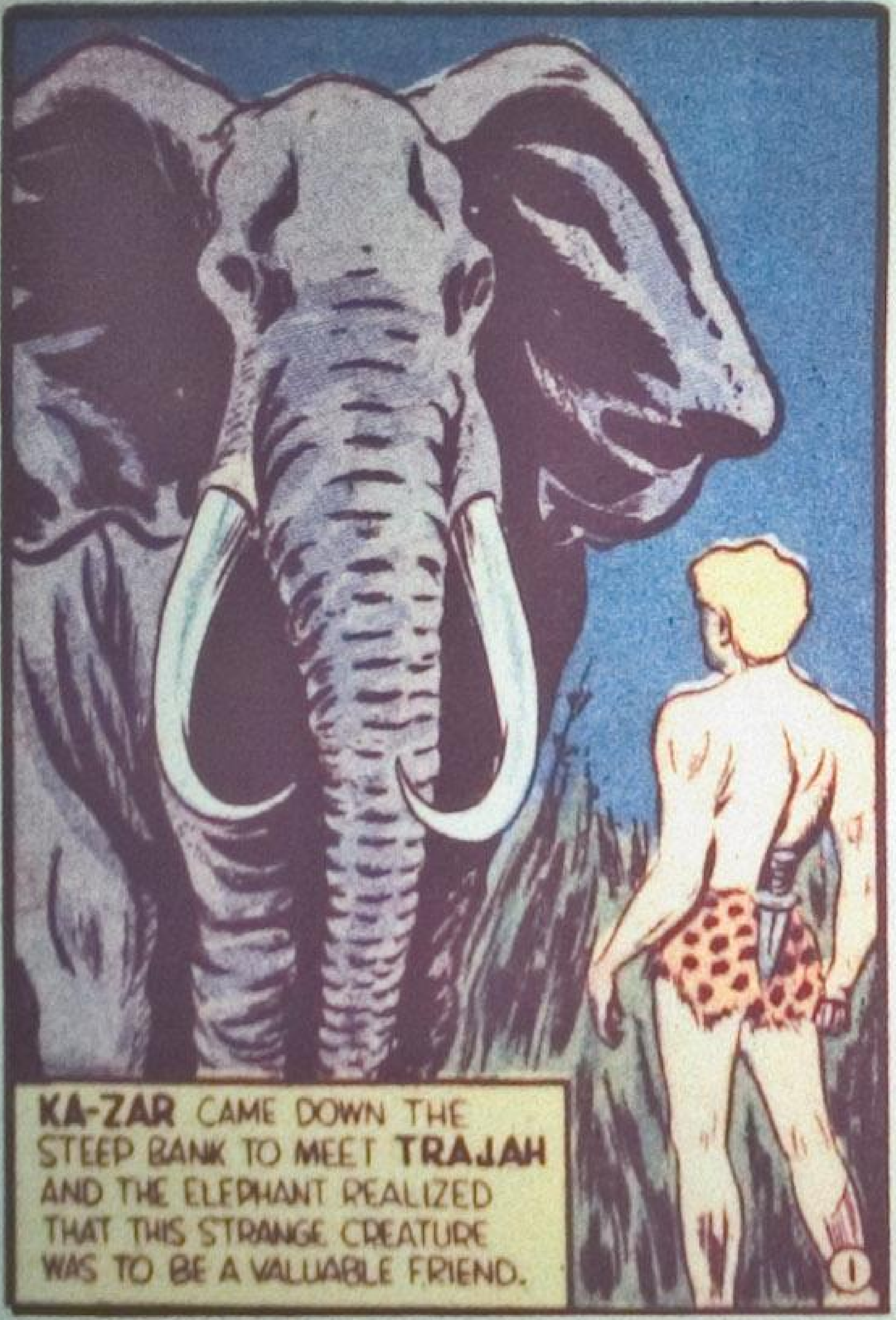

IN THE REAR OF THE TENT STOOD **BARDAK,** ONE OF **CHAKA'S** TRIBE, CLUTCHING THE PRECIOUS MIRROR!
⑥

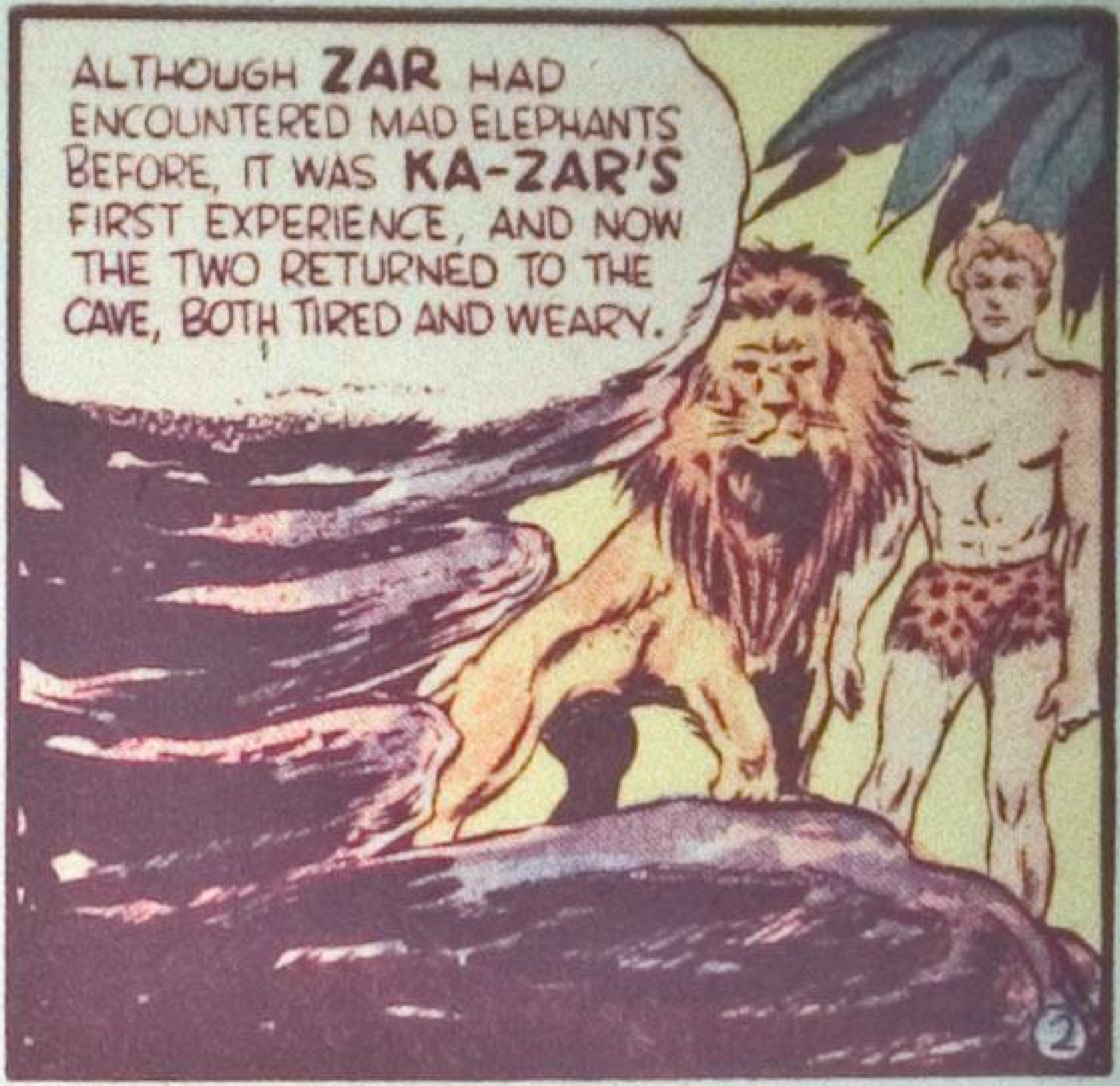

IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE JUNGLE, KA-ZAR DEMANDED THE MIRROR.
"BARDAK FOUND IT," WAS THE APE'S ANSWER.
IT WAS TOO LATE TO BACK DOWN NOW. KA-ZAR ADVANCED TOWARD THE GREAT APE.
BARDAK TOSSED THE MIRROR ASIDE AND RAISED HIS GREAT HAIRY ARMS TO MEET KA-ZAR!
THE APE'S HANDS SHOT FORWARD AND GRABBED KA-ZAR'S WRIST...... HIS KNIFE DROPPED TO THE GROUND FROM THE PARALYZING GRIP AS BARDAK PULLED HIM FORWARD TO A TERRIBLE DEATH!
FOR A MOMENT BARDAK RELAXED HIS GRIP AND IN THAT INSTANT KA-ZAR BROKE FREE, GRASPED THE APE'S LONG LEFT ARM AND TWISTED IT BEHIND HIS BACK!
KA-ZAR PUSHED THE ARM FARTHER AND FARTHER UPWARD WITH ALL THE STRENGTH OF HIS YOUNG BODY UNTIL FIRES OF AGONY RAN THE LENGTH OF BARDAK'S ARM!
"KA-ZAR IS MY MASTER," HE FINALLY PANTED WITH A PAINFUL CROAK!

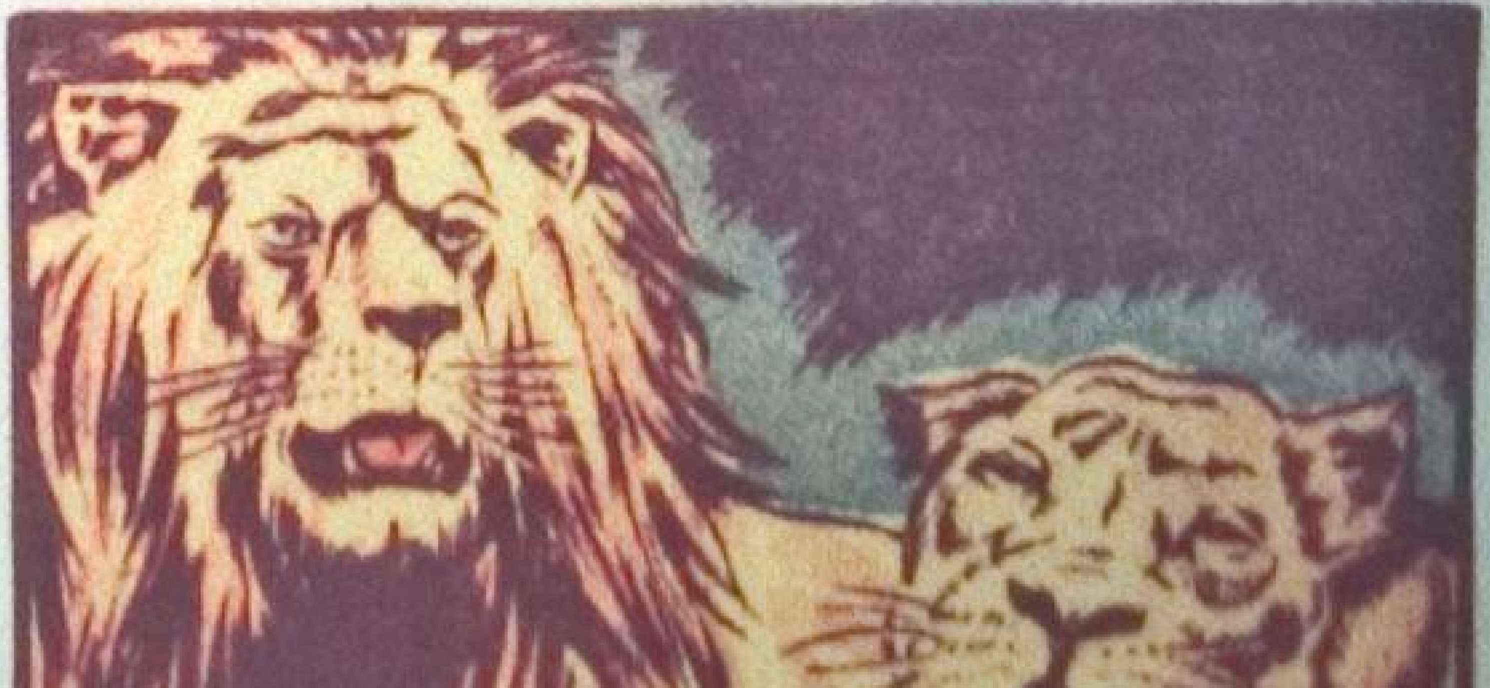

THE BOY RELEASED HIS HOLD. "KA-ZAR GIVES YOU YOUR LIFE", HE SAID
THE APE GLARED AT HIM AND THEN SHUFFLED FROM THE TENT. ①
KA-ZAR HAD SPARED A LIFE ...... AND IN RETURN GAINED A BITTER ENEMY !
EAGER TO TELL ZAR HOW HE HAD MASTERED THE APE, KA-ZAR SET OUT FOR THE CAVE. ②
THE LION EXPRESSED HIS DISAPPROVAL OF KA-ZAR'S ACT OF PITY. ③
HE MADE WEEKLY PILGRIMAGES TO THE TWIN GRAVES OF HIS PARENTS .... AND NEVER FORGOT HIS HATE FOR THE FAT DE KRAFT WHO HAD CAUSED HIS FATHER'S DEATH. ④
SHA NEVER FULLY ACCEPTED KA-ZAR, HER ATTITUDE BEING ONE OF TOLERANCE. OF LATE SHE HAD BECOME MORE SULLEN AND UNAPPROACHABLE. ⑤
AS SHA GREW MORE DISAGREABLE, ZAR SUGGESTED TO KA-ZAR THAT THEY TAKE A TRIP. THIS THE YOUTH WELCOMED "LET'S GO IN SEARCH OF TRAJAH AND HIS HERD OF ELEPHANTS," HE SAID. ⑥
TOGETHER THEY RACED OFF THROUGH THE JUNGLE AS THEY OFTEN DID .... EACH TRYING TO OUTDO THE OTHER IN SPEED. ⑦

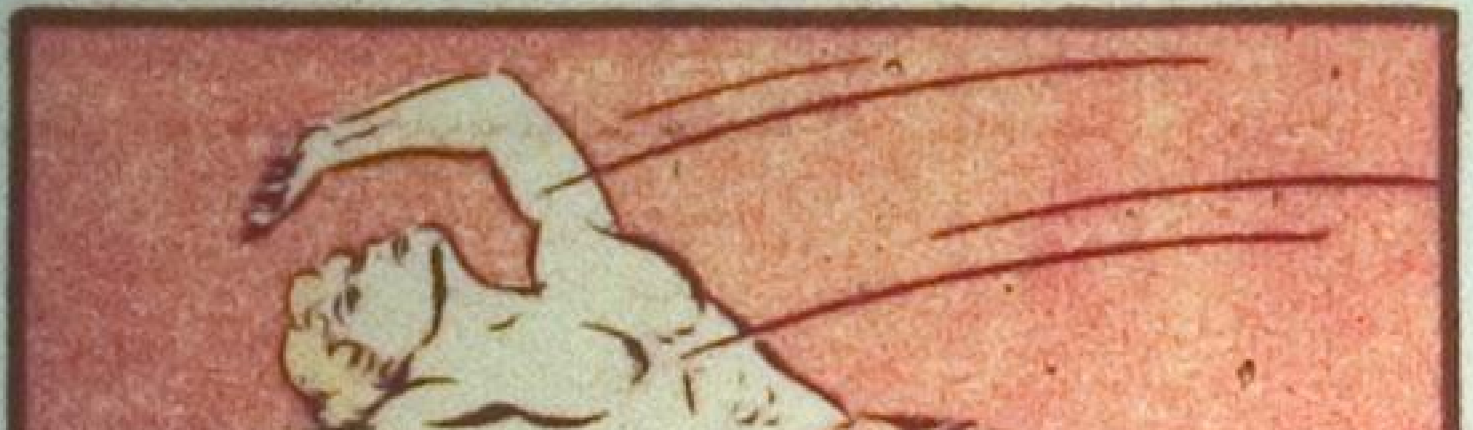

THE PAIR STOPPED IN A NARROW RAVINE TO DRINK FROM A WINDING STREAM. THEY WERE STARTLED BY **A LOUD CRASHING** IN THE JUNGLE AHEAD OF THEM!
"FLEE!" SNARLED **ZAR** AS HE SCRAMBLED UP THE ROCKY SIDE OF THE RAVINE!
FROM THE HIGH BANK **ZAR** REPEATED HIS WARNING, JUST AS....
...A GREAT GRAY SHAPE APPEARED AT THE HEAD OF THE RAVINE!
THE BEAST'S RED-RIMMED EYES FASTENED ON THE TWO-LEGGED CREATURE IN HIS PATH AS HE **CHARGED FORWARD!**
KA-ZAR SCRAMBLED UP THE TRUNK OF A NEARBY TREE AS THE ELEPHANT SWEPT BY!
SQUEALING WITH RAGE HE STOMPED ABOUT THE BASE OF THE TREE, AND THEN THREW HIS WEIGHT SQUARELY AGAINST THE TRUNK!
THE TREE SHOOK VIOLENTLY, AND **KA-ZAR** REALIZED HE WAS NOT SAFE.
THE EARTH QUIVERED AS THE GREAT BEAST TRUMPETED HIS FRUSTRATED FURY!
HE COILED HIS BIG TRUNK AROUND THE TREE AND PULLED UNTIL ITS SHALLOW ROOTS GAVE WAY!

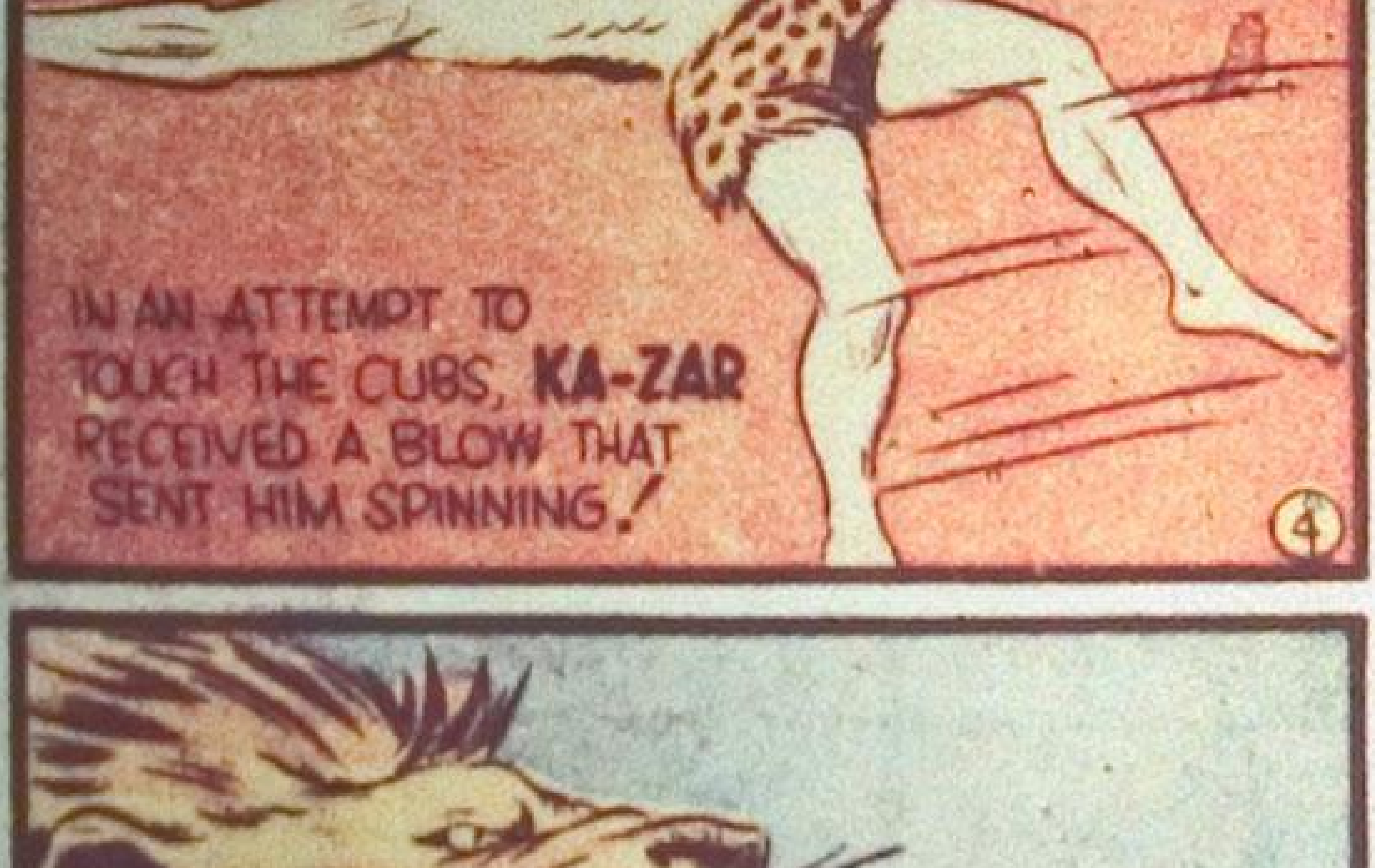

AS THE GREAT TREE TOPPLED, KA-ZAR TIMED ITS FALL TO A FRACTION OF A SECOND AND SWUNG INTO THE AIR!
SUDDENLY, THE VINES TO WHICH HE CLUNG, TORE LOOSE AND KA-ZAR PLUNGED HEAD DOWNWARD INTO SPACE!
HIS OUTSTRETCHED ARMS CAUGHT THE BRANCHES OF ANOTHER TREE!
KA-ZAR QUICKLY RETURNED TO ZAR AND THOUGHTFULLY CONSIDERED THE MATTER, FOR HERE WAS AN ELEPHANT WHO VIOLATED THE CODE OF THE JUNGLE..... TO KILL ONLY FOR FOOD.
ANOTHER CRASHING BROUGHT HIM TO HIS FEET. IN THE SAME DIRECTION FROM WHICH THE OTHER HAD COME, A TOWERING GRAY FORM APPEARED. IT WAS TRAJAH, FOLLOWED BY HIS GREAT HERD OF ELEPHANTS.
LEANING OVER THE EDGE OF THE RAVINE, THE YOUTH SAID, "I AM KA-ZAR, BROTHER OF ZAR. WE COME IN PEACE.... HOW IS IT THEN, THAT ONE OF YOU TRIED TO SLAY ME?"
"THAT ONE WAS TUPAT," ANSWERED TRAJAH. "THE MADNESS HAS COME UPON HIM!"

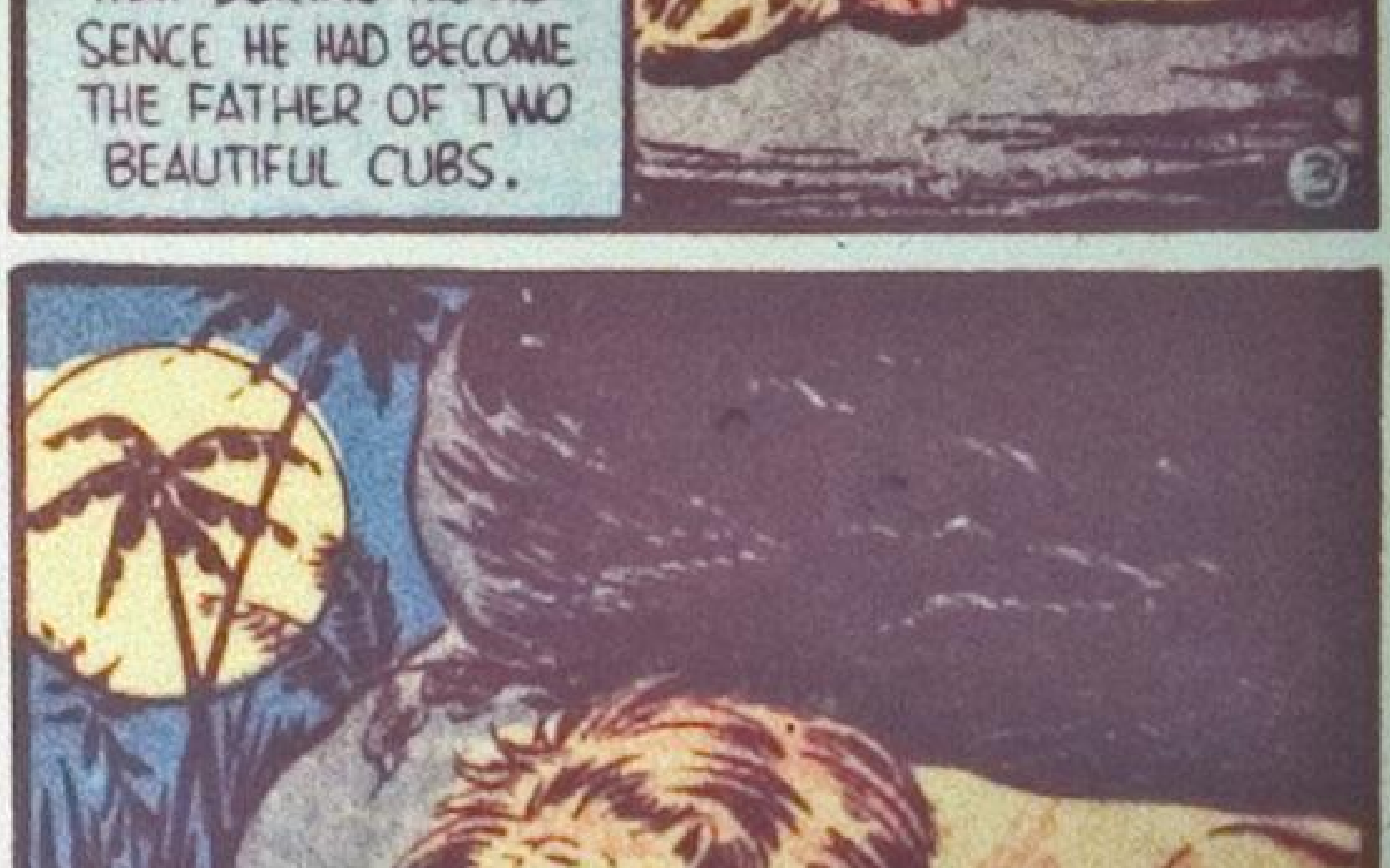

KA-ZAR CAME DOWN THE STEEP BANK TO MEET TRAJAH AND THE ELEPHANT REALIZED THAT THIS STRANGE CREATURE WAS TO BE A VALUABLE FRIEND.
①

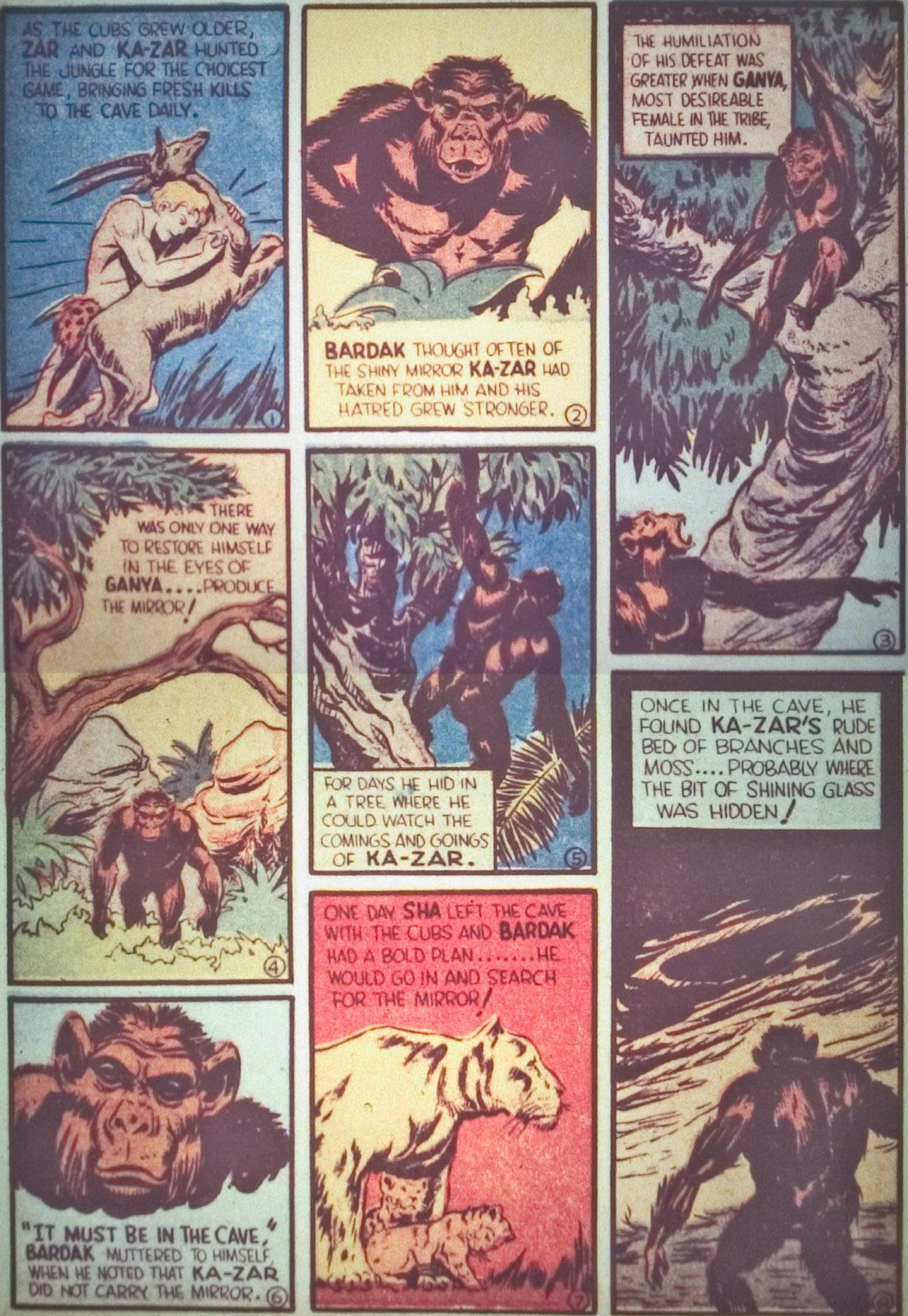

ALTHOUGH ZAR HAD ENCOUNTERED MAD ELEPHANTS BEFORE, IT WAS KA-ZAR'S FIRST EXPERIENCE, AND NOW THE TWO RETURNED TO THE CAVE, BOTH TIRED AND WEARY.
②

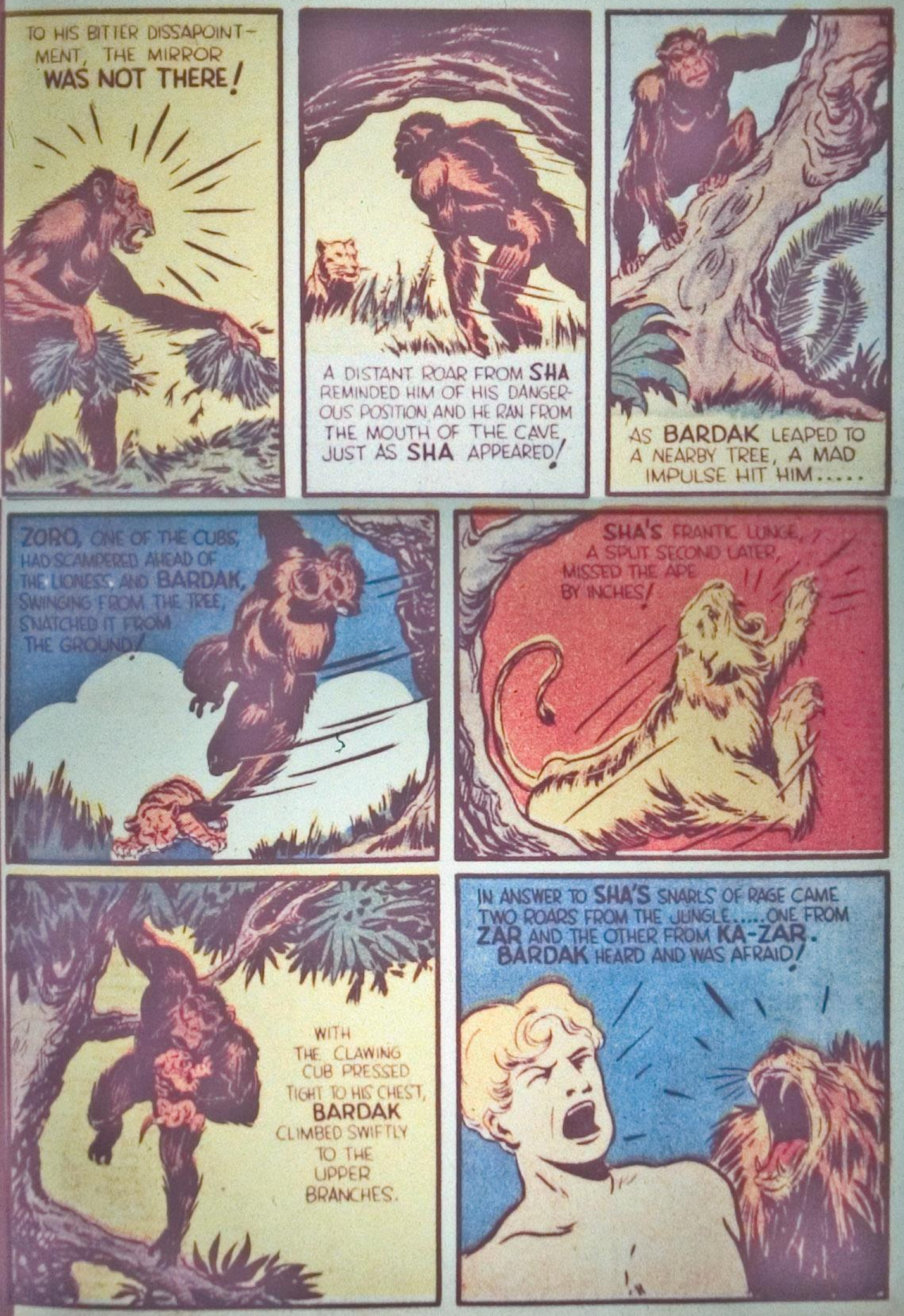

BUT THE HARD JOURNEY WAS QUICKLY FORGOTTEN WHEN ZAR LEARNED THAT DURING HIS ABSENCE HE HAD BECOME THE FATHER OF TWO BEAUTIFUL CUBS.
③

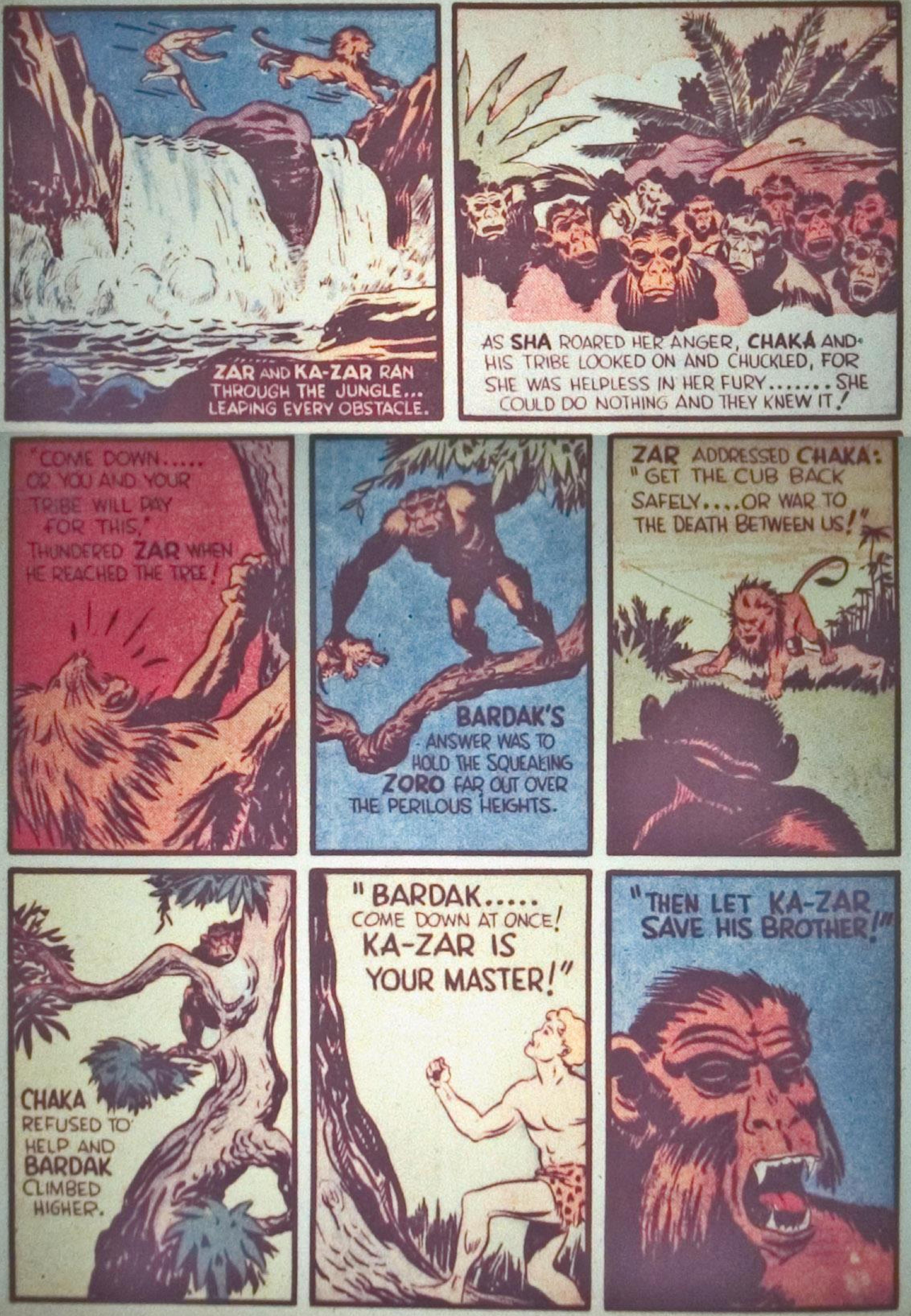

IN AN ATTEMPT TO TOUCH THE CUBS, KA-ZAR RECEIVED A BLOW THAT SENT HIM SPINNING!
④

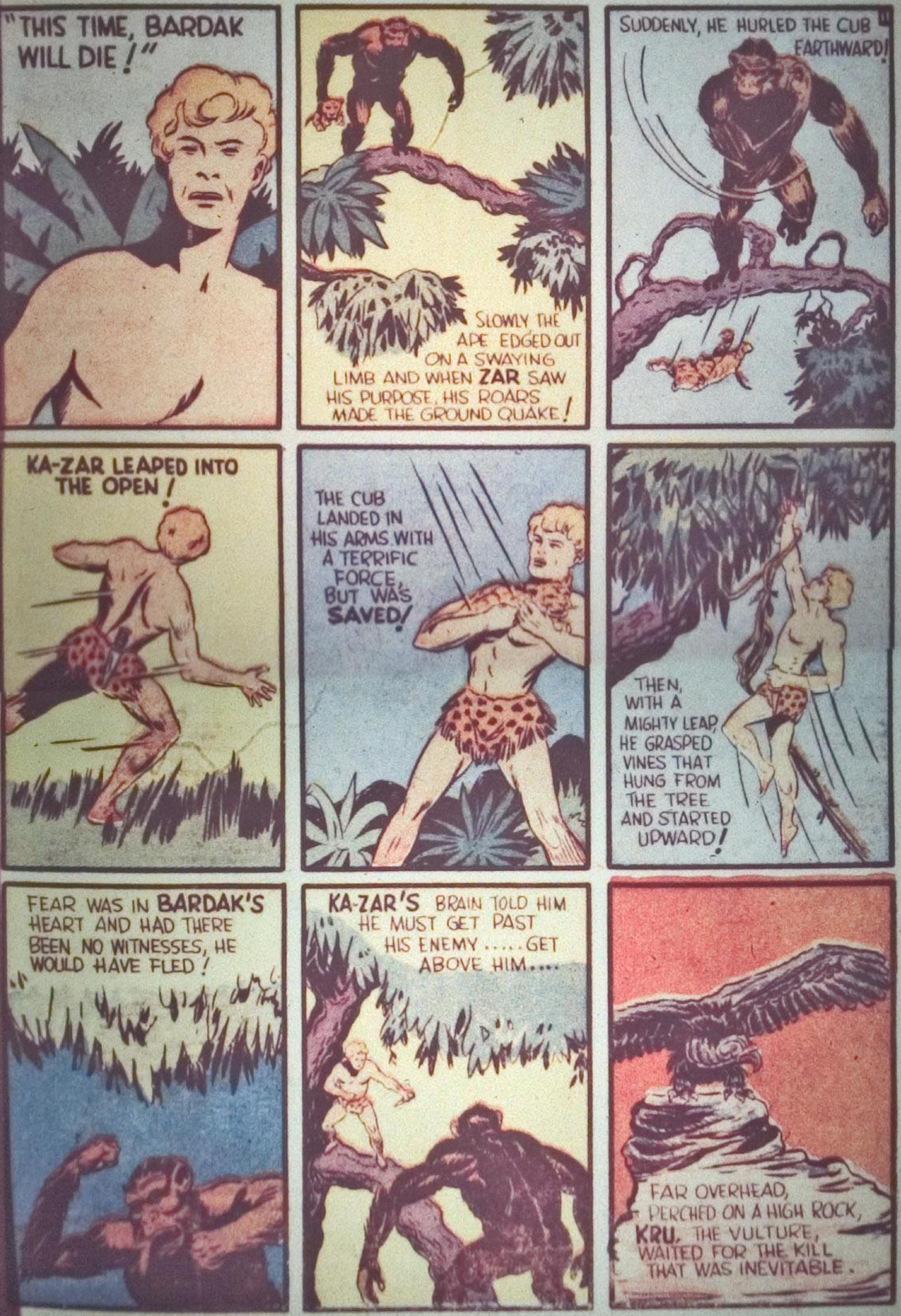

ZAR ROARED WITH ANGER, BUT THEN REALIZED IT WAS KA-ZAR'S OWN FAULT AND ADVISED HIM TO KEEP AWAY FROM THE CUBS!
⑤

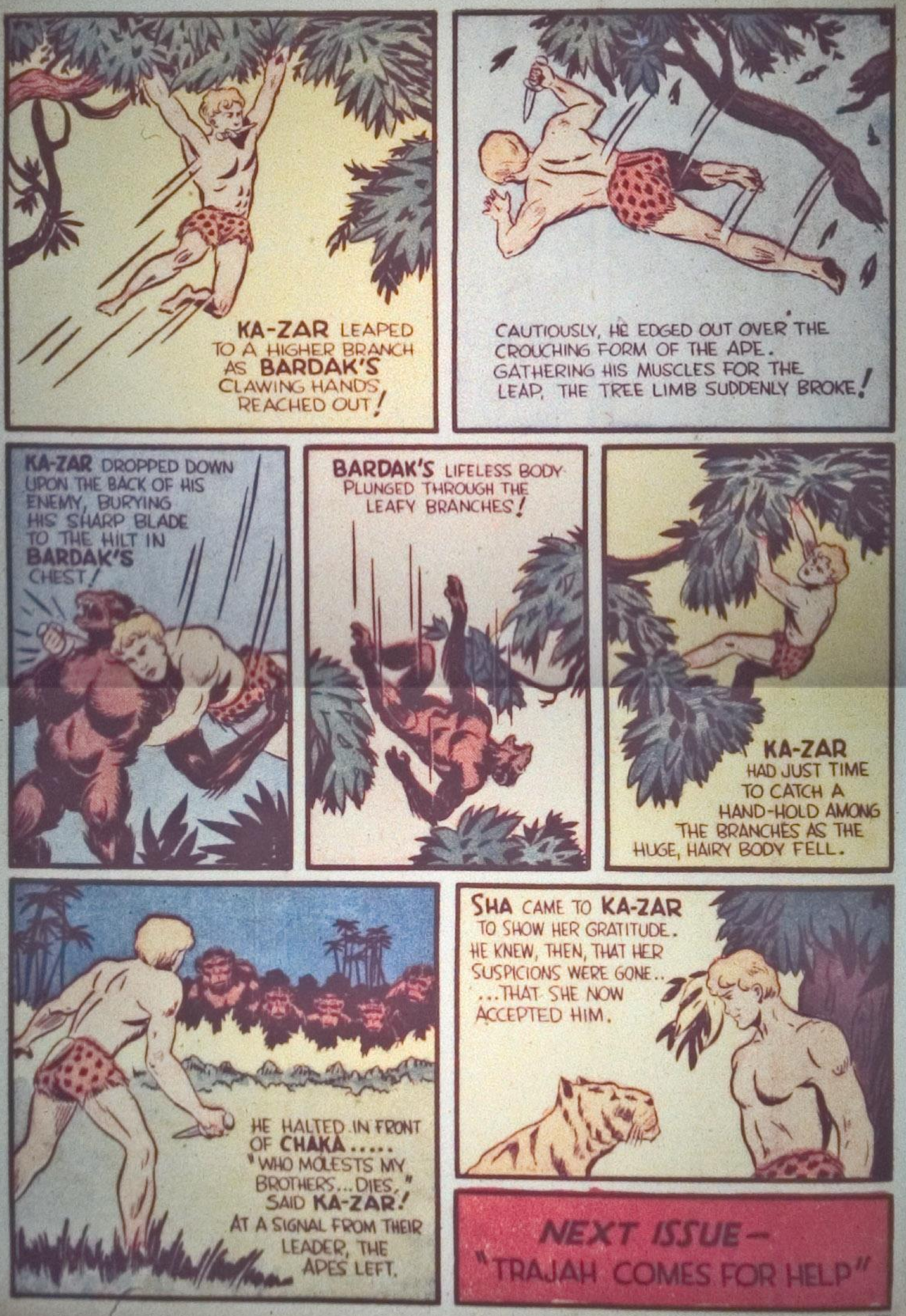

THAT NIGHT THEY BOTH STRETCHED OUT BEFORE THE ENTRANCE TO THE CAVE, TO GUARD THE TAWNY CUBS.
⑥


AS THE CUBS GREW OLDER, ZAR AND KA-ZAR HUNTED THE JUNGLE FOR THE CHOICEST GAME, BRINGING FRESH KILLS TO THE CAVE DAILY.
①
BARDAK THOUGHT OFTEN OF THE SHINY MIRROR KA-ZAR HAD TAKEN FROM HIM AND HIS HATRED GREW STRONGER.
②
THE HUMILIATION OF HIS DEFEAT WAS GREATER WHEN GANYA, MOST DESIREABLE FEMALE IN THE TRIBE, TAUNTED HIM.
③
THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY TO RESTORE HIMSELF IN THE EYES OF GANYA....PRODUCE THE MIRROR!
④
FOR DAYS HE HID IN A TREE WHERE HE COULD WATCH THE COMINGS AND GOINGS OF KA-ZAR.
⑤
"IT MUST BE IN THE CAVE," BARDAK MUTTERED TO HIMSELF, WHEN HE NOTED THAT KA-ZAR DID NOT CARRY THE MIRROR.
⑥
ONE DAY SHA LEFT THE CAVE WITH THE CUBS AND BARDAK HAD A BOLD PLAN.......HE WOULD GO IN AND SEARCH FOR THE MIRROR!
⑦
ONCE IN THE CAVE, HE FOUND KA-ZAR'S RUDE BED OF BRANCHES AND MOSS....PROBABLY WHERE THE BIT OF SHINING GLASS WAS HIDDEN!
⑧

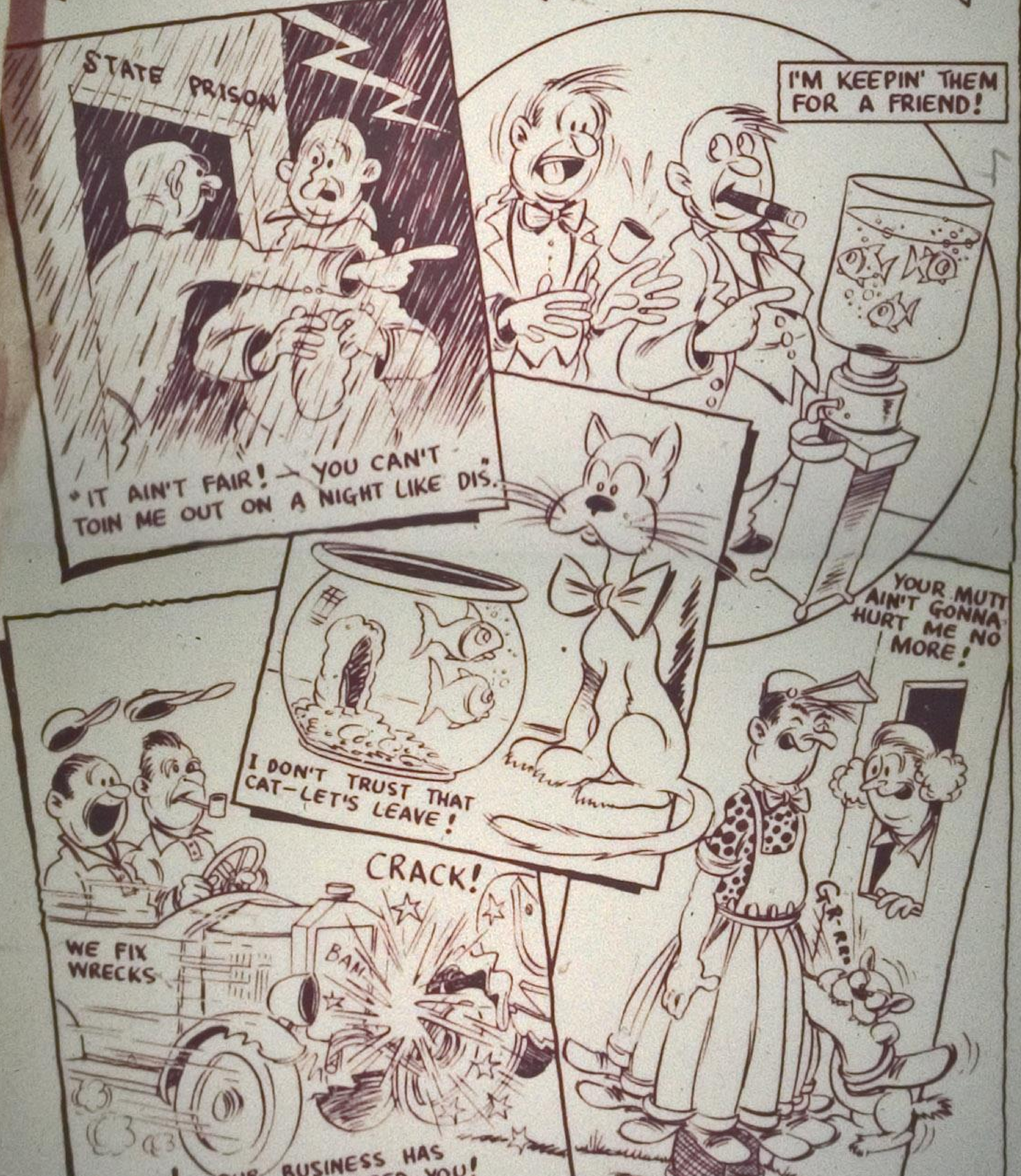

TO HIS BITTER DISSAPOINTMENT, THE MIRROR WAS NOT THERE!
A DISTANT ROAR FROM SHA REMINDED HIM OF HIS DANGEROUS POSITION AND HE RAN FROM THE MOUTH OF THE CAVE, JUST AS SHA APPEARED!
AS BARDAK LEAPED TO A NEARBY TREE, A MAD IMPULSE HIT HIM.....
ZORO, ONE OF THE CUBS, HAD SCAMPERED AHEAD OF THE LIONESS AND BARDAK, SWINGING FROM THE TREE, SNATCHED IT FROM THE GROUND!
SHA'S FRANTIC LUNGE, A SPLIT SECOND LATER, MISSED THE APE BY INCHES!
WITH THE CLAWING CUB PRESSED TIGHT TO HIS CHEST, BARDAK CLIMBED SWIFTLY TO THE UPPER BRANCHES.
IN ANSWER TO SHA'S SNARLS OF RAGE CAME TWO ROARS FROM THE JUNGLE.....ONE FROM ZAR AND THE OTHER FROM KA-ZAR. BARDAK HEARD AND WAS AFRAID!


ZAR AND KA-ZAR RAN THROUGH THE JUNGLE... LEAPING EVERY OBSTACLE.
AS SHA ROARED HER ANGER, CHAKA AND HIS TRIBE LOOKED ON AND CHUCKLED, FOR SHE WAS HELPLESS IN HER FURY....... SHE COULD DO NOTHING AND THEY KNEW IT!
"COME DOWN..... OR YOU AND YOUR TRIBE WILL PAY FOR THIS," THUNDERED ZAR WHEN HE REACHED THE TREE!
BARDAK'S ANSWER WAS TO HOLD THE SQUEAKING ZORO FAR OUT OVER THE PERILOUS HEIGHTS.
ZAR ADDRESSED CHAKA: "GET THE CUB BACK SAFELY....OR WAR TO THE DEATH BETWEEN US!"
CHAKA REFUSED TO HELP AND BARDAK CLIMBED HIGHER.
"BARDAK..... COME DOWN AT ONCE! KA-ZAR IS YOUR MASTER!"
"THEN LET KA-ZAR SAVE HIS BROTHER!"

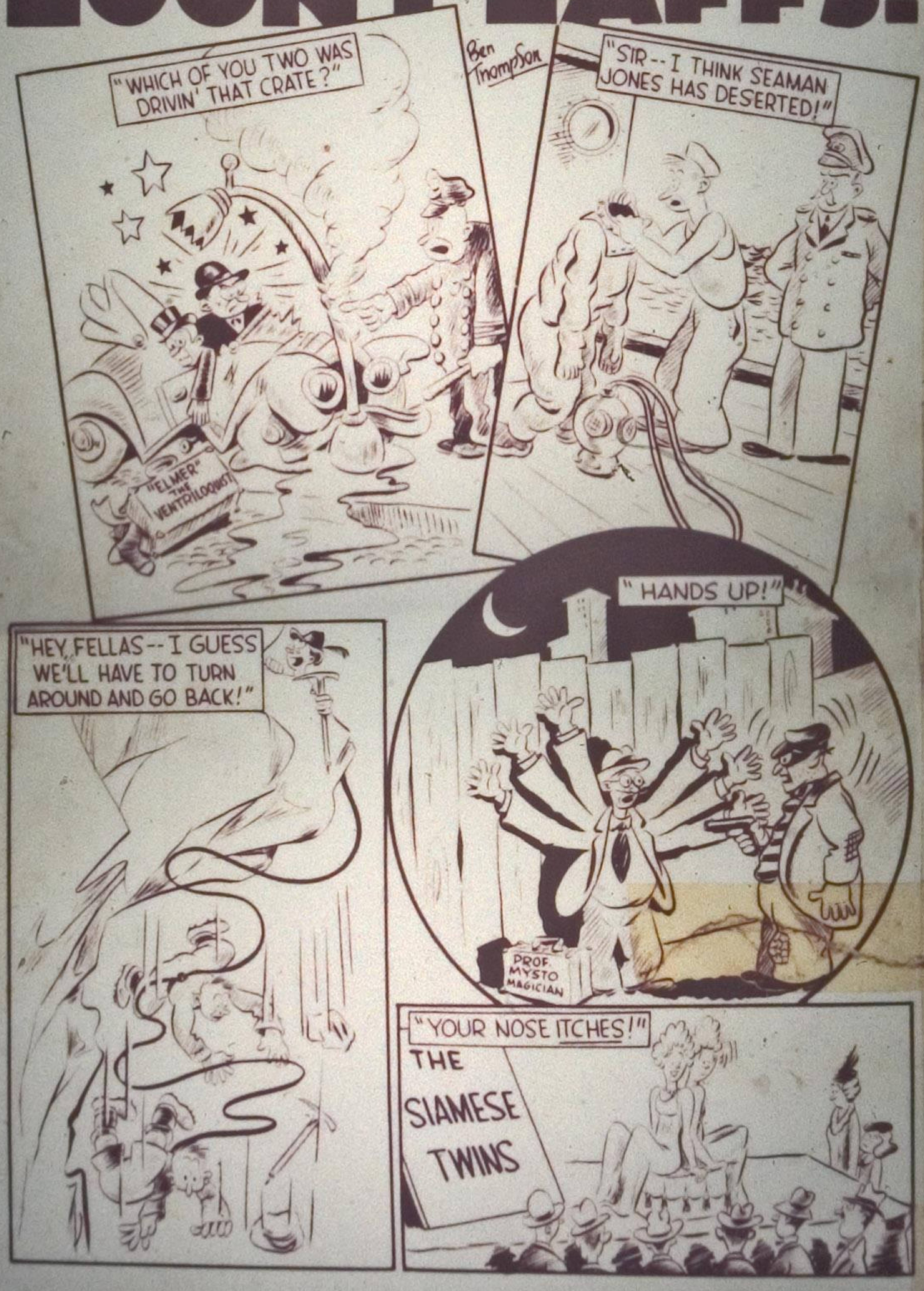

"THIS TIME, BARDAK WILL DIE!"
SLOWLY THE APE EDGED OUT ON A SWAYING LIMB AND WHEN ZAR SAW HIS PURPOSE, HIS ROARS MADE THE GROUND QUAKE!
SUDDENLY, HE HURLED THE CUB EARTHWARD!
KA-ZAR LEAPED INTO THE OPEN!
THE CUB LANDED IN HIS ARMS WITH A TERRIFIC FORCE, BUT WAS SAVED!
THEN, WITH A MIGHTY LEAP, HE GRASPED VINES THAT HUNG FROM THE TREE AND STARTED UPWARD!
FEAR WAS IN BARDAK'S HEART AND HAD THERE BEEN NO WITNESSES, HE WOULD HAVE FLED!
KA-ZAR'S BRAIN TOLD HIM HE MUST GET PAST HIS ENEMY.....GET ABOVE HIM....
FAR OVERHEAD, PERCHED ON A HIGH ROCK, KRU, THE VULTURE, WAITED FOR THE KILL THAT WAS INEVITABLE.


KA-ZAR LEAPED TO A HIGHER BRANCH AS BARDAK'S CLAWING HANDS REACHED OUT!
CAUTIOUSLY, HE EDGED OUT OVER THE CROUCHING FORM OF THE APE. GATHERING HIS MUSCLES FOR THE LEAP, THE TREE LIMB SUDDENLY BROKE!
KA-ZAR DROPPED DOWN UPON THE BACK OF HIS ENEMY, BURYING HIS SHARP BLADE TO THE HILT IN BARDAK'S CHEST!
BARDAK'S LIFELESS BODY PLUNGED THROUGH THE LEAFY BRANCHES!
KA-ZAR HAD JUST TIME TO CATCH A HAND-HOLD AMONG THE BRANCHES AS THE HUGE, HAIRY BODY FELL.
HE HALTED IN FRONT OF CHAKA..... "WHO MOLESTS MY BROTHERS...DIES," SAID KA-ZAR! AT A SIGNAL FROM THEIR LEADER, THE APES LEFT.
SHA CAME TO KA-ZAR TO SHOW HER GRATITUDE. HE KNEW, THEN, THAT HER SUSPICIONS WERE GONE.. ...THAT SHE NOW ACCEPTED HIM.
NEXT ISSUE— "TRAJAH COMES FOR HELP"

ALL IN FUN


STATE PRISON
"IT AIN'T FAIR! — YOU CAN'T TOIN ME OUT ON A NIGHT LIKE DIS."
I'M KEEPIN' THEM FOR A FRIEND!
I DON'T TRUST THAT CAT—LET'S LEAVE!
YOUR MUTT AIN'T GONNA HURT ME NO MORE!
G-R-RR
CRACK!
WE FIX WRECKS
BAM
"OBOY! — OUR BUSINESS HAS DOUBLED SINCE WE HIRED YOU!"
ed wood

LOONY LAFFS!


Ben Thompson
"WHICH OF YOU TWO WAS DRIVIN' THAT CRATE?"
"ELMER" THE VENTRILOQUIST
"SIR--I THINK SEAMAN JONES HAS DESERTED!"
"HANDS UP!"
PROF. MYSTO MAGICIAN
"HEY, FELLAS--I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO TURN AROUND AND GO BACK!"
"YOUR NOSE ITCHES!"
THE SIAMESE TWINS